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Labour urged to tackle 'last taboo'

Trim powers of the Queen, Blair is told

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE Queen would be stripped of all political powers and her role as head of the Commonwealth to become a ceremonial figurehead under radical proposals to be delivered to Tony Blair today.

In the most far-reaching study on the future of the Royal Family for nearly half a century, a Fabian Society document proposes the abolition of the Civil List, transfer of the powers encompassed by the Royal Prerogative to the Speaker, and new national anthems for England and the United Kingdom.

It calls on Mr Blair to tackle Labour's 'last taboo' and face up to the need to reform the monarchy.

One of the most controversial proposals is that the Queen should be replaced as head of the Commonwealth by a rotating presidency, similar to that used within the European Union. The document also advocates a referendum on the future of the monarchy every 10 years at the same time as the census.

The conclusions of the 7,500-word document, *Long to Reign Over Us?*, will be used by Conservatives as evidence that Labour thinkers want to dismantle the Royal Family's historic position within the state, even though the Fabian Society is an independent body and its proposals are not Labour policy. The society, one of the oldest left-of-centre organisations in the world, is affiliated to the party, has 90 Opposition frontbenchers among its members, and has Tony Blair as a patron.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said last night that the document — written by a prospective Labour candidate closely linked to recent party reforms — confirmed new Labour's desire to tamper with the monarchy.

The historian Lord Blake was appalled, describing the suggestions as immature, naive and pointless. "The Queen as monarch has not put a constitutional foot wrong," he said. Copies of the document will

be sent to Tony Blair's office today. One chapter, *Labour's Last Taboo*, says: "Ducking this issue is something that the Labour Party has managed particularly well. No serious attempt has been made by any Labour Government to reform the monarchy, nor has any serious suggestion been made of reform while in opposition."

New Labour advocated reform of Parliament, establishing a new Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, and a Bill of Rights. "Yet it has so far remained silent on the future of the institution at the heart of

ing biography of the Queen, was on the panel of readers that approved the text. The pamphlet says that the monarchy might not survive the rising tide of hostility unless the Crown is reinvented as a ceremonial figurehead with the political role removed. It says: "Many functions, such as adjudication in the event of unclear general election results, giving assent to Bills, and the announcing the Government's programme at the start of a parliamentary session, should pass to the Speaker." Powers to declare war and ratify treaties would be switched to Parliament.

Another controversial suggestion is to replace the National Anthem with a hymn such as *I vow to thee my country* or *Jerusalem*. The pamphlet urges the composition of a national anthem to celebrate the UK with words by the Poet Laureate and music by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber to mark the millennium. "Our national anthem is not an exaltation of nationhood or an expression of pride in our country. It does not mention Britain or even England once."

Funding would be raised through a royal levy of less than 15 pence per person per year. The Royal Household would be turned into a Department of the Crown answerable to Parliament and the entire expenditure of the monarchy would be brought under annual parliamentary scrutiny. Revenues from the Duchy of Cornwall, which go to the Prince of Wales, would revert to the State.

The pamphlet also urges a re-examination of the establishment of the Church of England and the monarch's role as Supreme Governor in a multi-faith society. It urges the abolition of the 1701 Act of Settlement, so that a monarch could marry a Roman Catholic, and of the law which prevents clergy standing for Parliament.

Britain's constitution: the monarchy. The uncharted waters into which Charles and Diana's divorce has steered the ship of State, the prospect of a divorcee becoming supreme governor of the Church of England, and the undignified behaviour of the younger royals, throws the future of the monarchy in its present form into serious doubt.

The success of presidents such as Nelson Mandela and Mary Robinson made the failure of the British Royal Family all the more stark. "The Labour Party, to be serious about governing, cannot duck the issue any longer."

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Julian Green, who was killed by an erupting volcano while in the Philippines on a coral conservation scheme

British student killed by volcano

By Tim Jones



Mount Canlaon: sent ash 5,000ft into the air

A GIFTED medical student has been killed standing on the rim of a volcano in the Philippines which exploded "like an atomic bomb".

Julian Green, 21, died in the arms of fellow adventurer Gordon Cole, who was praised for his courage in helping others down the mountain around steaming flames of lava. Mr Green, from Uppingham, Leicestershire, died after being hit on the head by a chunk of rock spewed out from the eruption which shook the 7,305ft Mount Canlaon, sending ash more than 5,000ft into the air.

Mr Green and Mr Cole, 22, from Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, had gone to the Philippines as volunteers on a coral conservation scheme. Shortly before leaving for the Far East, Mr Green learnt

that he had gained a first class honours degree after studying neuro-science at Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School at the University of London.

The tragedy, in which two Filipinos, Noel Tragico and Noel Perez also died and several Belgian students were injured, one seriously, occurred early on Saturday morning when two groups of people had reached the rim of the active volcano.

One of the Belgian students, Philip Coucke, paid tribute to Mr Cole's courage. He said: "On the mountain he was a really big help."

Mr Coucke said that as the mountain erupted he threw himself into a shallow depres-

sion as hot ash darkened the sky, making it difficult to breathe. "I was shouting that I would suffocate but then the wind blew away the dark clouds," he said.

Florence de Corte, 20, another Belgian, said: "It was horrific. I saw ash falling down. It was very dark, like

Continued on page 2, col 6

Octuplet woman's boyfriend 'not told of drugs'

By Carol Middleton

MEDICAL experts were astonished yesterday that Mandy Allwood, the single mother pregnant with octuplets, was given fertility treatment without her boyfriend's agreement.

Doctors said they found it "extraordinary" that a private clinic in Birmingham apparently did not consult Paul Hudson, 37, before giving Miss Allwood, 31, the hormone Metrodin and a booster drug Pregnyl.

Mr Hudson, a property consultant who has two children from another current relationship, discovered that his lover was taking the powerful ovulation drugs only after she had started the course. He said he found the idea of fertility treatment "unnatural" and was not ready to have another child, though he has said he will stand by her.

Miss Allwood was told that, if she had sex while undergoing the treatment, she risked a multiple pregnancy. After taking two doses of the seven-day course, she confessed to Mr Hudson, who insisted she stop immediately.

Miss Allwood, from Solihull, was referred by her GP to a consultant who is understood to have treated her at the private Priory Hospital in Edgbaston.

Most such clinics insist on counselling potential parents as a couple. Dr Gillian Lockwood, clinical research fellow in fertility attached to the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, said: "I was very surprised that this woman's partner did not know what was happening. In my clinic and in most of the clinics I know, we don't treat women, we treat couples."

Mother in hiding, page 3
Matthew Parris, page 16

200 soldiers die in Grozny

President Yeltsin has ordered an urgent investigation into the "gross miscalculations" which resulted in the deaths of up to 200 Russian soldiers during the worst fighting in the Chechen capital of Grozny for more than a year. Page 7

Grouse disaster sets RSPB a life-or-death dilemma

By Magnus Linklater

AS GUNS are loaded and Barhous donned this morning for what is likely to prove a modest grouse season, the RSPB is facing an agonising dilemma over whether to support the slaughter of hawks and harriers to protect the game birds they prey on.

The society's policy on shooting is strictly neutral, but it has always held that if sporting guns were stilled and nature allowed to take its course, a balance would be struck between gamebirds and predators, with both species flourishing.

Now that theory is being put to the test in an experiment at Langholm in Dumfriesshire. Although no one involved is yet prepared to discuss it publicly, it is an open secret that game birds have suffered a catastrophic decline on the moor — which once had the

most grouse in Britain — since gamekeepers stopped trying to control birds of prey five years ago. Other species, such as curlew, plover and some small heathland birds, have virtually disappeared.



"A disappointing shoot. I only managed to bag a brace"

The hands-off experiment on the Duke of Buccleuch's 25,000-acre estate, now in its final year, has been part-funded by the RSPB, which is monitoring the findings.

Until it was launched, gamekeepers controlled the predators, although they were prevented by law from shooting or poisoning them. Now they stand back as buzzards, hawks and hen harriers, hunting in pairs, take their toll. The result, in their view, has been nothing short of a disaster. Some local landowners believe the moor may never recover.

The Langholm report, which is expected to be drawn up later this year, will come at a point when grouse shooting faces a crisis. Last week, figures produced by the

Continued on page 2, col 4

United puncture the £15m dreams

By Rob Hughes

ALAN SHEARER, the world's most expensive footballer, was brought back down to earth yesterday afternoon when his new team suffered a drubbing at the hands of Manchester United — the side he rejected.

Before 73,214 Wembley spectators, many of whom had turned up to greet the former Blackburn star had opted to sign for Newcastle for £15 million, the message was that no one man makes a team. A striker not served with the ball cannot score, and if the opponents are better in every department he is lost.

Newcastle were beaten in the Charity Shield, the traditional curtain-raiser to the English football season, by four goals to nil. Manchester United, holders of the Premier League and FA Cup double, demonstrated that in team work, in thought and pace and deed, they remain superior.

The afternoon began with

tens of thousands of Newcastle supporters waving "Shearer class" banners and taunting opposing fans with "Shearer's coming home". In the event, he looked an exasperated ordinary man beaten by a team who were led by an extraordinary one.

Eric Cantona, their French captain, inspired Manchester United with the first goal. Led then to further goals from Butt, Beckham and Keane and, being Cantona, survived what should have been a second-half sending off when he lost his temper and manhandled Belgian defender Philippe Albert to the ground.

For Newcastle, whose bench contained £16.25 million of under-used talents, the hope has to be that the spending of high summer will start to pay dividends when the real season begins next weekend.

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The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



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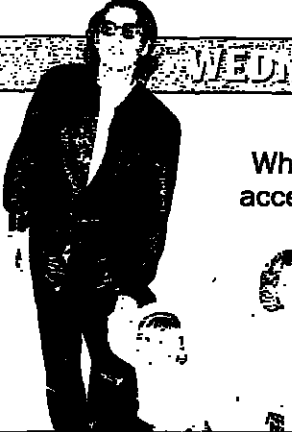
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TUESDAY

THE SCIENCE OF ADDICTION

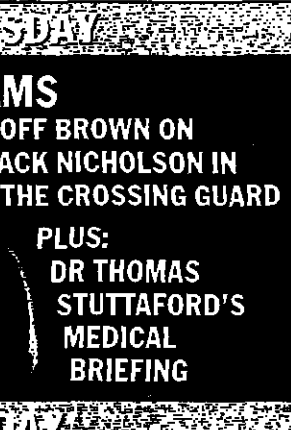
Part 2 of our series PLUS: The Libby Purves column



WEDNESDAY

STYLE

Why a man's best accessory is a baby PLUS: 40 PANASONIC CORDLESS PHONES TO BE WON



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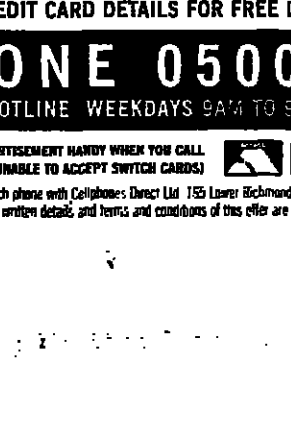
Geoff Brown on Jack Nicholson in THE CROSSING GUARD PLUS: DR THOMAS STUTTFORD'S MEDICAL BRIEFING



FRIDAY

POP

Thirteen and famous: the strange success of LeAnn Rimes PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview



SATURDAY

SUPERWOMAN

Neneh Cherry's brilliant career, in the Magazine PLUS: Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

Head of state must remain above politics

The Fabian plan for the monarchy would bring party politics into constitutional areas which are better as politics-free zones, says Vernon Bogdanor

A MODERN constitutional monarch fulfils two roles, a constitutional one as head of state and a symbolic one as head of the nation. Both are best undertaken by someone free of party ties. During the VE and VJ celebrations last year, the Queen represented the nation to itself in a way impossible for a former party politician, whether an elected president or the Speaker of the Commons. Francois Mitterrand was president of just one part of France, not of the whole nation. Mary Robinson is widely respected in the Irish republic, but one of her predecessors, Cearbhall O'Daigh, was, in effect, forced out of office in 1976 by a government which was politically opposed to him. It would not benefit Britain to have a head of state who

was at the mercy of the government. The fundamental reform which Paul Richards favours — transferring the sovereign's power to appoint a Prime Minister and dissolve Parliament to the Speaker — was achieved in Sweden in 1974. Its main consequence has been to politicise the Speakership. The choice of Speaker has become part of the political battle. In Britain, a Conservative majority would hardly allow the election of Betty Boothroyd, a

Labour MP, were the Speakership to be given these new powers. It would instead choose a less worthy figure but one who could be relied upon to defend the interests of the government. This would be a real accretion of power to the governing party. Yet one main aim of the constitutional reform movement is to limit the powers of government and place them under constitutional control. Mr Richards wants a ten-year referendum on the monarchy. But

the referendums we have had so far — on Europe and on devolution — have been on propositions put forward by the government of the day. What would be the point of a referendum on the monarchy when all the main political parties favour it? Besides, in 1995 a MORI poll revealed 41 per cent satisfied with the constitutional role of the monarchy, a higher score than for any institution other than local councils. Parliament and the courts scored only 34 per cent each. Should we have referendums on them as well?

Mr Richards wants to replace the Queen's role as Head of the Commonwealth with a rotating headship. But with 53 member states and a six-month term, each state would hold the headship just once every 26

years. Idi Amin was a Commonwealth Head of State. Would he have been acceptable as Head of the Commonwealth?

The monarchy, as Mr Richards suggests, must always modernise itself, and there is certainly a case for making the royal finances more transparent. Archaic legislation such as the Act of Settlement and the Royal Marriages Act could also benefit from reform. But the fundamental case for keeping the head of state uncontaminated by party ties is quite unanswerable.

Vernon Bogdanor is Professor of Government, Oxford University. His book *The Monarchy and the Constitution* was published by Oxford University Press in 1995.

JAMES MORGAN

Blair embarks on crusade to convert Labour doubters

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR has decided to tackle head-on the fears raised by Clare Short about his revolution in the Labour Party and embark on a crusade to win over the doubters.

In the first clear sign that he is ready to respond to concern about his leadership style, Mr Blair has let it be known that he will intensify his efforts to bring on board the whole of the party for his reforms. He is to use this autumn's internal debate on Labour's draft manifesto, culminating in a referendum of party members, as a test of Labour's unity. To win backing for the document, he will lead the campaign around

the country to secure party support and to try to ensure that the whole party is comfortable with the changes.

Mr Blair is said by close allies to be determined that there should be no retreat from the policy and organisational changes. But his move is an acknowledgement that Ms Short, in her highly critical interview in the *New Statesman*, was probably speaking for others in the party who are unhappy at the scale and pace of change and at suggestions that Mr Blair is turning his back on Labour's past.

Those misgivings were echoed yesterday by two former Labour Cabinet ministers, Peter Shore and Roy Hattersley. Mr Shore, speaking on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, said that Labour was failing to take on the Tories "on the high ground of politics". Mr Shore said: "It is no good pretending that we are a party which is no longer interested in re-distributing income in favour of those who are less advantaged than us in our society. It is no good pretending we are no longer in favour of improving and expanding our community services. They are fundamental and the very instinct of the Labour movement."

Mr Shore said the party spin-doctors were wrong to try to push the message that Labour no longer believed in higher spending on public services, and so in higher taxes, so as to avoid frightening Tory waverers. "The high ground of politics is always very much about taxation. To what purpose is it justified or not, are you part of a community or are you an individual?" Mr Hattersley, the former deputy Labour leader, wrote in *The Observer* that the leadership would be recklessly insensitive to ignore Ms Short's complaint that Labour was becoming ashamed of its own past. "Writing off the last 30 years looks like abandoning the basic principles on which the policies of those three decades were built."

Mr Blair will use his full authority to get the maximum support for the manifesto document. He is reported to be confident that when he puts over his case directly to the party it will strongly back him, as in the past. But his apparent readiness to listen to the fears of the traditionalists is significant and will be welcomed by party activists and figures such as Ms Short.

Tories accused of demonising smear

LABOUR's election chief last night accused the Conservatives of trying to buy victory with the biggest negative advertising campaign in British political history (Philip Webster writes).

As the Tories unveiled a new poster depicting Tony Blair with demonic eyes, Peter Mandelson said that if they were prepared to portray a practising Christian as the devil, there were no limits to how far they would go in personalising the campaign. The new poster, drawn up by the party's advertising agency at the urging of Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, was the immediate response to last week's comments by Clare Short.

It has the caption: "One of Labour's leaders Clare Short says dark forces behind Tony Blair manipulate policy in a sinister way."

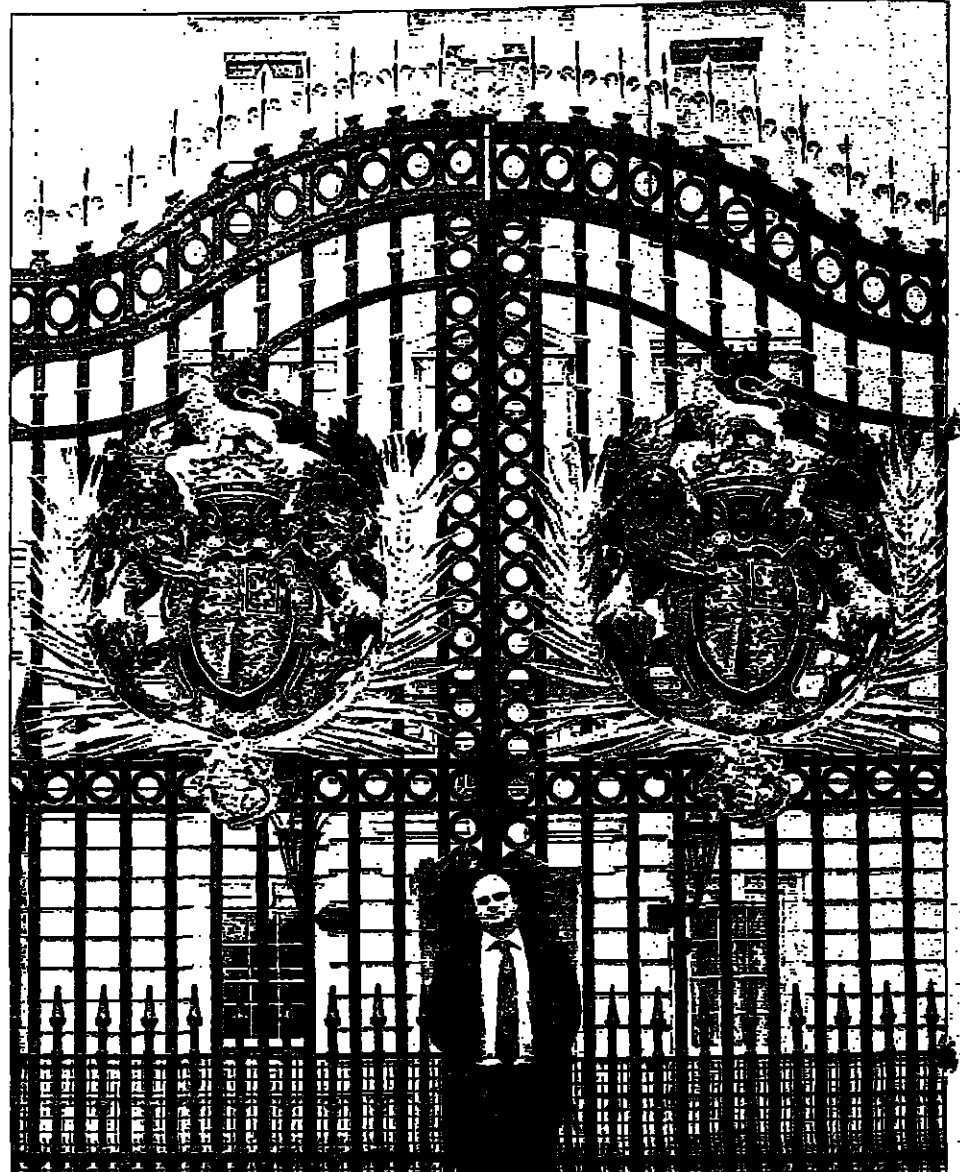
Some senior Conservatives privately voiced alarm over

the campaign. One said: "It is dangerously personal. Labour tends to keep off Major. I'm not sure we should be going for Blair. The public does not like it."

Mr Mandelson, who has been appointed as chief election strategist by Mr Blair and was assumed to be one of Ms Short's "dark forces", said negative campaigning was "designed to engender irrational fear".

Dr Mawhinney denied that the campaign was an attempt to "demonise" the Labour leader. On GMTV, he said: "I don't think it is personal, certainly not in the sense of trying to demonise Mr Blair. What it is doing is taking Clare Short's words and saying to the British people, 'If a Labour leader says that it is sinister, then they ought to take note.'"

Leading article, page 17



Paul Richards, author of the report, outside Buckingham Palace yesterday

Fabians' political influence far outstrips historic group's size

By Andrew Pierce

THE Fabian Society, which published a report on the future of the monarchy yesterday, was founded in 1884 in London with the goal of achieving a democratic socialist state.

The Fabians put their faith in evolutionary socialism rather than in revolution. The name of the society was derived from the Roman general Fabius Cunctator, whose pa-

tience in avoiding pitched battles secured ultimate victory over barbarian forces.

The society's early members included George Bernard Shaw and H.G. Wells. The founders were the social reformers Sidney and Beatrice Webb.

The Fabians at first attempted to permeate the Liberal and Conservative parties with their socialist philosophies. But when that strategy failed they helped to set up the

Labour Representation Committee, which became the Labour Party in 1906. The Fabian Society has been affiliated to Labour ever since.

Membership of the society peaked at 8,400 in 1946. It is currently steady at about 5,000. But its importance has outstripped its size: most recent Labour leaders have been members. Paul Richards, the author of the pamphlet, is a member of the Fabian Society executive.

Nationalist sit-down blocks road in protest at march

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent, and Audrey Magee

MORE than 100 nationalist protesters tried to block a loyalist march in Co Londonderry last night as a weekend of contentious marches in Northern Ireland drew to a close.

Police in riot gear were dragged into the village of Bellaghy as the demonstrators, including members of Sinn Féin, staged a sit-down protest on the main road against the march by 200 members of the Royal Black Preceptory.

Negotiations between the two sides, which were organised by the RUC, continued as nationalists voiced

strong objections to the march through the predominantly Roman Catholic village.

Other contentious marches throughout Northern Ireland during the weekend passed off relatively peacefully. Nationalist and Unionist leaders in Londonderry took heart after the biggest march of the day, attended by thousands of loyalist Apprentice Boys, took place without incident.

However, disturbances broke out in the city in the early hours of yesterday when nationalists hurled petrol bombs at the police and at Londonderry's war memorial. Police fired scores of plastic

bullets to disperse the crowd. Police also fired plastic bullets on Saturday evening when loyalist protesters hurled stones at RUC lines in Dunloy, Co Antrim. The police were attacked when they prevented Apprentice Boys returning home from Londonderry from marching through a nationalist area.

A Sinn Féin rally in Belfast, which was held to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the introduction of internment without trial, also passed off peacefully yesterday. Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin president, said the issue of contentious marches had to be resolved.

RSPB dilemma

Scottish Landowners' Federation (SLF) showed that since 1977 stocks of grouse have crashed.

Although this season suggests a mild recovery, the prospects are bleak for landowners who need large numbers of birds to attract the big-spenders shooting clients they need to make ends meet.

The SLF estimated that in 1994 revenues from grouse shooting brought in only £3 million in Scotland against expenditure of £13.7 million. At least 100 moors have gone out of commission in the past five years, with the loss of about 400 jobs.

The RSPB may well argue that helping landowners to build up stocks of grouse is not its business. But it will find it hard to dispute the findings of a survey in which it has taken part. And if they reveal the loss of other birds, such as

larks, curlew and plover, it may have to take action.

Last weekend, David Minns, RSPB head of public affairs for Scotland, said he could not discuss the Langholm experiment. However, he pointed out that on the society's own 32,000-acre estate at Abernethy, where the preservation of black grouse and capercaillie has been the main objective, they have achieved significant increases in numbers without any control of birds of prey — though they have had to shoot foxes and crows, and cull deer.

"The answer lies in having a far greater variety of vegetation than you would see on a traditional grouse moor," he said. "If you have trees and scrub, it gives the grouse somewhere to hide and more to feed on."

Leading article, page 17

Volcano

Continued from page 1 night. Several stones hit my body. I could not run. I hid behind a rock. I saw many of my friends being hit by stones." Ms de Corte said. Another survivor said: "The explosion was like an atomic bomb."

Yesterday, Mr Green's mother, Gill, 47, a teacher, said the whole family had been devastated by news of the tragedy.

She said that her son was helping to make records of the coral and fish life in the Philippines. "He was going to return to do three years' clinical work to qualify as a doctor. This was his last long holiday before starting his working life and he wanted to put it to good use."

Mrs Green said her son loved travel and adventure and three years ago had won the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yard sets up ethnic links advisory body

Black and Asian community leaders are to be invited by Scotland Yard to join an advisory council in a new effort to improve links between police and ethnic minorities. The council will be the first of its kind set up by a force in Britain. The move will be announced later this month when the Yard sets out a new five-year strategy. The council would oversee the whole of the Yard's race relations policy and could advise police on how to handle sensitive incidents such as deaths in custody.

MoD claim rejected

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament yesterday rejected a statement from the Ministry of Defence which said that there "has never been" an accident involving the release of radioactivity from nuclear weapons in Britain. It followed a report in *The Observer* yesterday that accidents involving weapons had been covered up by the MoD for 40 years.

Sport gets £30m boost

The Lottery Sports Funds have given £30 million to 23 different sports in the latest round of awards. The two biggest grants are to Hampshire County Cricket Club, in Southampton, which gets £7.1 million towards a £10.7 million ground relocation scheme, and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, which receives £7 million towards an £8.2 million volleyball project.

Bomb bill to reach £1bn

The cost of rebuilding Manchester city centre is likely to reach £1 billion as damage from the IRA bomb in June continues to be uncovered. The final bill will not be known until November when the city council presents figures to the Government but it is expected to face a shortfall running into tens of millions of pounds. Council leaders and the City Centre Task Force are preparing to seek more help.

Thunderstorm alert

The thunderstorms and heavy rain that swept the country yesterday are set to continue today, with the risk of some localised flooding across the South East. Parts of London, East Anglia and the North were deluged with sudden rain yesterday. A spokesman for the Meteorological Office said: "We are not out of the woods yet." He gave warning of local flash floods.

Forecast, page 20

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A possible £1m in deals is dependent on a large number of the eight fetuses being born

Mother in hiding as PR man seeks sponsorship

By CAROL MIDDLETON

MANDY ALLWOOD, the single mother expecting eight babies, was seeking sanctuary at a secret address in the Home Counties last night from the "media circus" surrounding her high-risk pregnancy.

Miss Allwood, 31, who has sold her story to the *News of the World* for an estimated £100,000, was accused of gambling her life and the lives of all her unborn children by insisting on proceeding without interference with the pregnancy, which she hopes will raise £1 million in newspaper and sponsorship payments.

The former property consultant and her boyfriend, Paul Hudson, 37, have enlisted the services of Max Clifford, the PR consultant. He is contacting car, baby food and disposable-nappy companies to find a sponsorship deal.

Meanwhile the couple, from Solihull in the West Midlands, have asked the *News of the World* to provide them with a secret address close to King's College Hospital in south London, where Miss Allwood is under the care of Professor Kypros Nicolaides, head of foetal medicine.

Doctors have advised Miss Allwood to have some of the embryos aborted or risk losing them all and damaging her own health. She has said: "I know some people will call us irresponsible but as far as I am concerned, the more the merrier."

The newspaper is understood to be paying for a private tutor for Miss Allwood's son from a previous marriage, Charlie, 5, during

their period in hiding. Yesterday Phil Hall, the *News of the World's* Editor, denied there was a "sliding scale" in operation, where the deal was dependent on how many babies Miss Allwood had, and he insisted she was not out to make her fortune from the octuplets. "She does not want to gain financially for herself; she wants the money to bring up, feed and clothe her children," he said.

"If she doesn't have any children she doesn't get any money. If she gives birth to eight babies she will need a lot of money, if she gives birth to six she will still need a lot of money. If she loses two or three children we are still very interested in her story and the deal still stands."

He added that if Miss Allwood miscarried or did not go through with the pregnancy the newspaper would "pay her a small amount and send her on holiday". He declined to say how much was being paid in the couple but insisted that reported figures of £350,000 were "way off the mark".

Mr Clifford, however, said that how much sponsorship Miss Allwood attracted would depend on how many babies she had. "But the deal will benefit Mandy and Paul if, God forbid, she doesn't have any children at all. It is market forces. If she gives birth to two or three babies, well, lots of people have done that. If she gives birth to seven or eight there will be huge world interest."

Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Birmingham Erdington, said: "It is a delicate, sensitive and extremely



Clifford: helms market forces dictate interest

serious matter that ought not to be milked for money. To try to make money out of a medical oddity of this kind is extremely distasteful."

Miss Allwood told the *News of the World*: "I'm deliriously happy. I want nature to take its course." The couple rejected advice to abort six embryos. Mr Hudson said: "That's too horrible to contemplate. Our eight babies were obviously meant to be."

Pro-life groups welcomed Miss Allwood's desire to keep all the babies. Professor Jack Scarisbrick of the anti-abortion group Life had pleaded for nature to be allowed to take its course as some foetuses

could naturally die as the pregnancy progressed. He said: "I am delighted by her pro-life response to this challenge."

Mr Hudson, a property consultant, first contacted Central Television in Birmingham to tout the story. He then rang the *News of the World* and met representatives last Monday. On Wednesday he and Miss Allwood travelled to Wimbledon, southwest London, to meet Mr Clifford, who is now helping to shield them from rival television and newspaper reporters.

"If all goes well over the next year we are talking about £1 million in sponsorship, syndication and deals. She will need every penny she can get," Mr Clifford said.

"She doesn't believe in abortion, it's that simple. I guess it is a sign of the times that the first person she contacted was her gynaecologist and the second was the PR. I think she has done the right thing. Right now she isn't the one being besieged by the press, I am, and that has got to be better for her."

Last night the father of Miss Allwood's ex-husband, Simon, described her as "an extremely astute woman who is very ambitious". Andrew Pugh, from Solihull, said: "All I care about is Charlie, who is my own flesh and blood. I am determined to try to ensure that he does not suffer permanently because of all this attention to his mother and her unborn babies."

"It is up to the parents what they do, but I honestly don't know what effect it would have on Charlie. If you had eight other kids the pressure on everything would be immense."

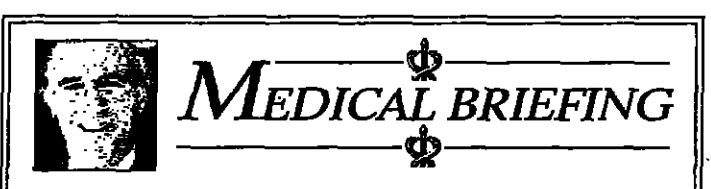


Mandy Allwood and her boyfriend Paul Hudson, neither of whom countenance abortions

Pregnancy that should be viewed as a catastrophe for all involved

FERTILITY treatment needs careful control if disasters, such as those threatening Mandy Allwood and her eight developing embryos, are to be avoided. Not only is it most unlikely that any of the eight babies will survive, but the pregnancy and delivery also pose an unnecessary threat to the health, even life, of the mother. In medical eyes this pregnancy is a catastrophe.

Many doctors will be puzzled about why Miss Allwood was prescribed fertility treatment, for she had already had two pregnancies without, so far as is known, any problems. In her interview with the *News of the World* she did



Dr Thomas Stuttford

not mention that there had been previous evidence of ovulatory failure and, indeed, she had an abortion three years ago, after receiving drugs following a car crash.

If history was to be made and

Miss Allwood's eight embryos did live, the home background would not strike most doctors as an ideal one for the children. Paul Hudson, her boyfriend, is not living with her and has publicly said he does not intend to, for he has two

children by another current girlfriend. Not unnaturally, Mr Hudson says that he was opposed to Miss Allwood becoming pregnant at all. The dangers of misdirected fertility treatment are well-known.

Multiple pregnancies result in premature delivery and unfortunately when these very small babies live they are likely to suffer physical and mental damage. Multiple pregnancies also carry an increased risk to the mother, both during the pregnancy and from severe bleeding and the danger of an obstructive blood clot after delivery. The accepted adage is that all the complications of pregnancy become more likely

when it is multiple, and that they will also probably be more severe.

Miss Allwood's account of her fertility treatment is rather vague. She says that she was prescribed Metrodin (urofolitropin) together with Pregnyl (chorionic gonadotrophin) after consultation with her GP. But she does not actually say that it was her own doctor who gave her these preparations. It is very unusual for GPs to provide infertility treatment of this sort because the response to Metrodin, which stimulates the ovary to produce the eggs, has to be monitored carefully by ultrasound and taking hormone levels. After a suitable ovarian response to

Metrodin — which is not the simultaneous ripening of eight ova — Pregnyl is given to bring about ovulation, the release of the eggs.

When the use of Metrodin, which is made from the urine of post-menopausal women, results in hyperstimulation of the ovaries, multiple pregnancies are not the only hazard. Hyperstimulation also causes enlargement of the ovary; if the patient is fortunate she may suffer no more than abdominal discomfort, possibly severe enough to be classified as pain, but if she is unlucky the hyperstimulation may lead to serious haemorrhage if the enlarged cysts rupture. There have been

deaths from this cause and also from another complication of hyperstimulation, deep vein thrombosis.

Mothers who have an overabundance of maternal feelings may think that it would be nice to have an instant family the size of a nursery class. Doctors who have seen the results of some premature deliveries are less enthusiastic about this maternal dream; they know that to conceive eight babies at once, however good the home background, presents a failure, not a success. So great is the failure that even the thought of a reward of £1 million would not justify the experiment.

Time ran out for heart defect girl

By DES BURKINSHAW

A GIRL aged two has died from a congenital heart defect after spending nearly all her life on a hospital waiting list. The parents of Natalie Kelley say that she was denied life-saving treatment because of a waiting time of 18 months.

Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, had only one paediatric heart surgeon, who was too busy to operate on their daughter.

The hospital is seeking to employ a second surgeon after admitting that it breached the Patients' Charter guidelines on waiting times.

The girl's congenital defect was diagnosed shortly after her birth. Her parents, Robert and Sadie Kelley, said that doctors had warned them that she would need an operation before her first birthday if she were to live.

They are demanding an inquiry. Mrs Kelley, 24, from Dewsbury, west Yorkshire, said that the family felt mistreated by the hospital. "We know that if they had done this operation Natalie would have stood a chance. She didn't deserve to die like this."

The child died on June 5 after collapsing at home. A

post-mortem examination revealed that death was a result of a blood clot caused by pulmonary atresia, a congenital narrowing of coronary arteries.

An operation had been scheduled for March but was cancelled because the waiting list had not shortened sufficiently. The girl's case was reviewed in April, when her fingers and toes were turning blue and she had difficulty in breathing and walking.

The hospital has written to Mr and Mrs Kelley admitting that it breached the Patient's Charter recommendations on waiting times.

A spokesman for the hospital said: "We have every sympathy for Natalie's parents at this very sad time and if they have any unresolved concerns I would urge them to contact the hospital."

"Patients are reviewed to make sure they are not deteriorating. It seems as though Natalie did so very suddenly. It seems as though the information given to the parents was not as full as it should have been."

Pupils face more murder inquiries

By KATHRYN KNIGHT AND STEWART TENDLER

THE headmaster of Launceston College spoke of his hopes yesterday for "an end to the uncertainty" over the murder of Caroline Dickinson, as French police prepared to travel to Cornwall to question pupils at the school again.

Caroline, 13, was raped and smothered three weeks ago in a youth hostel on the last night of a school trip to Pleine Fougères in Brittany. Patricia Pade, 39, a local tramp who was arrested and charged after apparently confessing to Caroline's murder, was freed on Thursday after DNA tests cleared him.

Devon and Cornwall Police are awaiting a formal request from French police to travel to Launceston, but detectives are expected to make the trip in the next few days. They are understood to be anxious to question the four girls with whom Caroline shared a dormitory and the five boys who were among the 39 pupils on the trip.

Paul Wroath, the headmaster, said yesterday that many of his pupils had already been interviewed for up to five

hours in the days immediately after the murder. Sixty detectives were involved in the investigation.

The interviews were long and thorough. In some cases questioning sessions lasted five hours. Statements were taken, stored on computer and signed by each interviewee. Full descriptions were given of any possible suspects," Mr Wroath said.

He added that while many pupils had coped remarkably well, many still needed counselling. "Many are resilient and composed while others remain distressed. They have had to go through so much in these past few weeks. They must be helped to come to terms with what has happened and regain the confidence to enjoy life in the way that children should," he said.

Caroline's parents, Sue and John Dickinson, also called for renewed attempts to catch their daughter's killer. "Then the man who robbed Caroline of her future and us of a lovely daughter will not be free to commit such a crime again," Mr Dickinson said.

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Laugh a minute as festival comics try to avoid the one-man audience

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A FIGHT for audiences on this year's Edinburgh fringe may be beyond a joke. A total of 185 comedy shows are competing for attention, 40 per cent up on last year and four times higher than a decade ago.

They are up against more than 14,000 fringe performances by 9,000 artists of all varieties, plus the International Festival and the Drambuie Film Festival. The 50th year of the three-week arts bonanza began last night with the international premiere of *Dragonheart*, starring Sean Connery as the dragon's voice.

The film festival also includes premieres of REM's *Road Movie*, *Mulholland Falls* starring Nick Nolte, Bernardo Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty*, and a visit by Jarvis Cocker of Pulp to talk about his pop videos. The International Festival includes the Mark Morris

Dance Group at the Festival Theatre, and Miranda Richardson in *Orlando* at the Royal Lyceum.

One comedian, Chris Addison, recalled the horror of last year's Edinburgh fringe: his double-act with a friend played to a one-man audience. The venue had 50 seats. Having an early morning slot did not help.

The man's solitary clapping echoed through the hall as he said: "Very good, guys." Addison has been picked to appear in the BBC New Comedy Awards.

The comics are hoping to be seen by the dozens of talent-spotting agents, producers and promoters from as far afield as Australia, as well as the judges for this year's Perrier awards. The top prize, announced on August 24, is only £3,000, but all shortlisted winners get an autumn season in London.

Winning the prize has become a fast-track to stardom. Lee Evans became a

film star, with three offers from Hollywood. Nica Burns, director of the Perrier awards, said: "He was always going to make it. The Perrier just made it a bit quicker."

Last year's Perrier winner, Jenny Eclair, is back again. Among those making their debut this year with a full-length show is Matt Welton, formerly a telecommunications computer analyst, who decided to try his luck in showbusiness after a successful wedding speech as best man. He said: "It was the first bit of public speaking I'd done. Friends encouraged me to do some comedy in the local pub. Then someone at work died. That planted the seed. I thought, I don't want to die in this office. I didn't want my life to go by."

He specialises in the surreal and the satirical, such as: "When I was very young, I had this feeling I was a boy, but a boy trapped inside a woman's body. Then I was born and it sorted itself out."

Howard agrees to compensate supergun informant



Paul Greician, to claim more than £500,000 in damages

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE businessman who told the intelligence services about Iraq's secret Supergun project is to receive compensation from the Home Office after his conviction for selling arms to Baghdad was quashed by the Appeal Court.

Paul Greician, former managing director of Ordtec, a Reading-based arms company now in liquidation, received a suspended sentence in 1992 for illegally exporting an artillery fuse assembly line to Iraq. His conviction was quashed when it was revealed he had been working as an informant for M16 and M15, and that documents disclosing his relationship with the intelligence services had been withheld from the defence counsel. Mr

Greician, 41, who has been unemployed since his company closed, applied to the Home Office for compensation under section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, claiming miscarriage of justice. His case was also examined as part of the Scott inquiry into the arms-for-Iraq affair.

Yesterday Lawrence Kormornick, Mr Greician's solicitor, said Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, had now decided to make, without admission of liability, a payment from public funds. He said he was now preparing a "schedule of loss" — likely to be "well in excess of £500,000" — to compensate for pain, suffering and hardship as well as loss of earnings, "past, present and future". Mr Greician described the compensation deci-

sion yesterday as "a major step forward".

More than half a dozen former company executives at the heart of the Scott inquiry are involved in claims against the Government, totalling millions of pounds. Paul Henderson, Trevor Abraham and Peter Allen, the three former executives of Matrix Churchill who were acquitted of charges relating to the sale to Iraq of machine-tooling equipment, are claiming against Customs and Excise.

Reginald Dunk of Atlantic Commercial Ltd and Alexander Schlesinger, a consultant to the company, whose convictions for selling sub-machineguns to Iraq via Jordan were quashed two years ago, were told in April that they were to receive compensation from the Home Office for miscarriage of

justice. Apart from his case against the Home Office, Mr Greician has been granted legal aid to sue Customs for wrongful arrest and/or malicious prosecution. A writ is expected within months, with a damages claim also in excess of £500,000.

Mr Greician still faces charges in the United States of illegally selling artillery fuses to Iraq and recently spent five months in jail in South Africa after being arrested at Johannesburg airport on an Interpol warrant. He was freed by a court to return to Britain.

Ordtec's artillery fuse contract was with Space Research Corporation, a Geneva-based company through which Gerald Bull, designer of the Iraqi Supergun, carried out business. The fuses were to be exported to the Jordanian

forces, although Mr Greician told the Scott inquiry that he and his company knew the fuses were bound for Iraq.

Sir Richard Scott said in his report that the Ordtec affair was complicated by the fact that Mr Greician, like Mr Henderson of Matrix Churchill, was helping the intelligence services. However, the timing of his information about the Supergun has always been crucial. Mr Greician claimed he first mentioned it to the Metropolitan Police Special Branch in January 1989 and to M15 and M16 soon after. The Special Branch and M15 and M16 insisted the meeting took place on December 21, 1989.

The intelligence services argued that Mr Greician's assistance as an informant began only after his company had signed the deal to sell

the fuse assembly to Iraq. They also said they knew nothing of Ordtec's involvement in the contract when they first met him.

Sir Richard supported the intelligence services' recollection of the timing of the initial meeting and also cast doubt on Mr Greician's claim that he had spoken about his company's fuse deal each time he met his contacts in M16 and M15. Sir Richard said he was convinced Mr Greician made no mention of the fuse contract until May 15, 1990. An M16 officer said he warned Mr Greician that the intelligence services could not sanction any breach of UK law, including exporting munitions with a false end-user certificate. Mr Greician denied a warning was given.

Sanctions, page 9

Government launches inquiry

Exam board sets grade C maths GCSE at 14%

By JOEL WOLCHOVER

EDUCATION officials are investigating an examination board that reduced the grade C pass mark in a GCSE mathematics paper to just 14 per cent.

The reduction brought down the mark needed to get a grade A to 43 per cent, according to the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA), which monitors the performance of exam boards.

The Department for Education will begin an inquiry today into allegations that the Southern Examining Group (SEG) reduced the pass level after this year's results showed that candidates had not done as well as expected.

A department spokeswoman confirmed that SEG, which sets GCSE mathematics papers taken by about a

third of candidates, had been investigated two years ago for similar "grade boundary inconsistencies". She said: "Standards have to be maintained at a certain level and an examination board such as this has to adhere to that standard. We are concerned about standards, we want them to be as high as possible. Our officials will be inquiring of this board how it came to mark these papers in this way. If we are still not happy with the explanation, the SCAA will be asked to take a second look."

Although the investigation is at an early stage, Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has the power to take away the group's right to set examinations.

Last year Mrs Shephard introduced controls on the

number of syllabuses allowed in several GCSE subjects, including mathematics, after a lengthy investigation into the marking practices of SEG and the London University Examination and Assessment Council. The investigation, carried out by the SCAA, concluded that the SEG had given out more GCSE B grades than were justified when marking mathematics and science papers taken in 1994.

Tony Millns, assistant chief executive of the SCAA, said that the recommendations made after that inquiry may have prompted SEG to set a particularly difficult paper this year, making it harder for candidates to score high marks, which in turn affected the level at which grades were awarded.

"The grade B inquiry indicated that SEG needed to reconsider its standards in mathematics," he said. "This year's results will be kept under particularly close scrutiny, to make sure there is no major discrepancy between this year's results and last year's, or with other examining boards."

Mr Millns added that the SCAA would be asking for a report from its independent observer, who was at the meeting at which SEG officials decided that one paper was so hard that a mark of 43 per cent would merit a grade A.

Up to a third of SEG's 200,000 GCSE mathematics candidates sat the paper under investigation. It carries 35 per cent of the total marks and, taken with another paper and coursework, forms the hardest combination candidates can take.

George Turnbull, a spokesman for SEG, defended the board's marking practices. He said: "If the examination paper is more difficult, it will be harder for students to get marks, therefore the raw score will be lower. If it is easier, students will have to get a higher percentage to get the same grade."

"I can guarantee that the standards of the scripts for that particular paper are equivalent to a grade C from last year's examination, and the previous year's examination."

However, the low pass grade was criticised by the Engineering Employers' Federation. Ann Bailey, its head of education, said: "Fifteen per cent may make the grade for the Southern Examining Group but it doesn't make the grade for the engineering industry. Engineering employers need to know that recruits have a good grounding in maths and credible qualifications. A 14 per cent pass mark is neither."

News of the decision came as next week's GCSE results were expected to reveal a rise in pass rates for the ninth year running, prompting renewed criticism that exams are getting easier.



"Hello, hello, hello": Liam Gallagher opened proceedings at Knebworth, greeting 250,000 fans. Photograph: Gill Allen

Big is beautiful as Oasis take their place in the record books

"YOU'RE making history, you lot," the beaming Noel Gallagher says, looming over the audience on the largest video screens in the world. And indeed they are: 250,000 people over two days made Oasis at Knebworth one of the biggest gigs in British history.

Three million people, 5 per cent of the population, applied for tickets and those lucky enough to get them were treated to two new songs, *My Big Mouth* and *It's Getting Better*. Along with tried and tested hits, with a guest list of 7,000 there were plenty of opportunities for star-spotting: Mick Hucknall of *Simply Red*, Jarvis Cocker and Kate Moss made their way to the celebrity enclosure to compare bodyguards with Liam



One in 20 Britons applied for tickets to see Oasis in concert at Knebworth. Caitlin Moran joined the crowd on Saturday

Gallagher and Patsy Kensit, and all looked disingenuous, surprised when mobbed by amateur paparazzi.

For those not chosen as Kate Moss's plus one, there were tickets still available at a price. Cro-Magnon touts were willing to get you into "The Gig of the Decade" for £300, a sizeable mark-up from £22.50. Once inside, many would have gladly paid £300 to avoid queues. There were 400-yard tailbacks for each bar and toilet. But with the temperature into the 80s

and a PA so powerful everyone was guaranteed to leave touched by flammus, such matters were of little importance. Oasis took to the stage at 9pm, greeted by a roar so huge that flocks of birds took to the sky from Knebworth's old oaks.

"Hello, hello, hello," Liam said, making a fairly good job of John Lennon's famous "retard" impression. "Let's go." And off they went, kicking out the music that has made the Top 40 truly exciting for the first time in ten

years and working hard for the estimated £5.6 million the weekend accrued.

Joined for the inevitable encore of *Champagne Supernova* by The Stone Roses' ex-guitar player John Squire — one of Noel Gallagher's heroes — Oasis bowed out in a blaze of guitar solos and a fireworks display. As many tired and emotional punters fell over backwards, disorientated from staring at the sky so long, Martin Carr of the *Beat* Radio 1s said: "Everyone in Britain — except Damon from Blur — loves Oasis. They can do no wrong." He would appear to be right.

Nine fans were arrested after Saturday's concert, mostly for public order offences when 15,000 tried to board one train at Stevenage.

Yard unit to fight crime at sea

Scotland Yard is creating a seagoing unit with two £100,000 boats. Officers from the Thames division, who usually patrol London rivers, are to be trained to provide back-up for Customs and immigration investigators and navy operations.

The six-man unit is being created because no other agency involved with boarding vessels has full police powers to carry out searches and make arrests. The 20ft rigid inflatable boats will be delivered in the autumn.

Government eye

The Department of Transport uses the most private detectives in Government, according to figures collated by a Labour MP. Last year it spent £477,000 seeking evidence against trespassers on roads, building sites and on processing legal documents.

MP's boycott

A Tory MP has banned German wines from his hotel, in protest at the ban on British beef exports. Warren Hawkinsley, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, runs Edderton Hall, near Welshpool, Powys, with his wife, Evelyn.

Villages appeal

Four "quintessentially English" villages in Essex are to take their case against plans for 2,000 homes to the Court of Appeal. The parish councils of Birchington, Felsted, Little Dunmow and Takeley have been overwhelmed by messages of support.

Diver killed

A diver has died while working in the North Sea. Gary Carey, 38, of Okehampton, Devon, was working from the diving support vessel *Discovery* in the Ness field, 190 miles north east of Aberdeen. He was employed by Sub Sea Offshore of Aberdeen.

Alzheimer's aid

A £250,000 laboratory at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, is to study whether gene flaws hold the key to Alzheimer's disease. Researchers, led by Professor Gordon Wilcock, will also consider environmental and sociological factors. The lab was funded by a donation.

Oates bible

A bible which belonged to Captain Lawrence Oates is expected to fetch about £6,000 at Christie's next month. Oates chose to die rather than delay Scott's 1912 Antarctic expedition. The bible was returned to his family after researchers found the bodies.

Speedboat death

A teenager died when he fell from a speedboat in Loch Lomond yesterday. The 16-year-old was a passenger in the boat, which was being driven by another youth of the same age, who was not injured. A police inquiry is under way.

Ahead by a neck

John Evans, 49, set a world record by balancing 93 milk crates on his head for ten seconds at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. The builder, who has a 23-inch neck measurement, acquired the skill carrying piles of bricks up ladders.

Chipping in

A 5ft mermaid will be carved in a 24-ton block of granite over the coming weeks at Landy End by Penzance artist Bas Rospoe. In the hope that visiting tourists will contribute to The Mermaid Appeal to build a £500,000 breast-care centre at Truro.

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of well-qualified sixthformers turn down places at university because they are made to specialise too early, admissions officials say in a report today.

More than 33,000 students with sufficient exam grades decided not to go to university last year. One in seven of these was offered a place but turned it down, usually because they wanted to rethink their career path.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service blames the "lost" students on the narrowness of A-level study and the need to apply for a university place up to a year before the course starts. This means the choice of degree may be based on only the first year of A-level study.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of Ucas, says: "Our research suggests that people are having to make up their minds far too early on what they want to study and are perhaps being led into a specialisation far too soon."

"This points to a crying need for candidates to apply for higher education when they are older and when they already have their results."

After the need to rethink the direction of study and career, the second most common reason for not taking up an offered place was rejection by a first-choice university, followed by personal reasons and money worries.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals is consulting on a twin-track system which would allow applicants to choose whether to apply on predicted A-level



Higgins said decisions had to be made too early

grades many months in advance, as now, or to wait until after A-level results.

Last year Ucas received 205,000 applications from students who had achieved sufficient grades for university — that is, at least two grade Es at A-level or equivalent.

Chris May, 20, was accepted by Lancaster University last summer for a business management degree but decided to take time to reconsider his future. He left college with a merit in his general national vocational qualification in business, equivalent to two good A-levels.

Mr May, an assistant bar manager in Exeter, said: "I took the business course because a careers adviser said it would leave my options open. However, I found it closed options for me when I left college. People are made to choose too early. You have to have your whole life planned out before you go to university and if you don't you could waste three years."

Army recruiters offer schoolboys a flying start

THE Army began a parachute course for schoolboys yesterday as part of its efforts to attract vitally needed recruits. With a shortage of 4,000 front-line troops, the Army is seeking to convince teenagers still at school of the excitement and merits of a career in the military. Low birth rates in the 1970s will exacerbate recruiting problems for the Army seeking its new officer class over the next few years.

The Royal Artillery is one unit inviting potential recruits on courses that are demanding and offer a taste of service life. For Ben Stelf, from Sedbergh

School, Cumbria, the plan works. He is one of about 20 schoolboys on a five-day parachuting course at the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Netheravon, Wiltshire, organised by the Royal Artillery's recruiting officer, Major Andy Waller.

"I grabbed the opportunity because I have always wanted to know what the jumping out of a plane was like," said Ben, 18, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, who plans to study chemistry at Manchester University next year.

"However, I'm now fairly interested in joining the artillery because it is a

diverse organisation with things like a parachute unit, commando unit, air defence and field artillery."

Huw Brook, 17, from Bradford Grammar, said the course had stretched everyone mentally and had been a good introduction to army life. "It has certainly made me want to become an officer because you are the person that has to make decisions rather than just doing as you are told," Huw, of Halifax, said.

Although interested in the Artillery, he said his future probably lay in the Royal Engineers or the Royal Electric-

al and Mechanical Engineers, as he planned to study engineering at university. That does not worry Major Waller.

"The important thing is that young people have a look at the Gunners and get a taste of army life. We tell them to go away and look at other regiments to compare and contrast. Hopefully, if they don't join the Royal Artillery, they will at least join the Army — and that is what matters most," he said. He hopes to reach other schools "because we are going to have to work even harder to satisfy our recruiting needs."

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Desperate attempts at revival lasted three hours

Five teenagers drown in car crash at holiday camp

By LIN JENKINS

FIVE youths died yesterday when their car overturned and landed upside down in a dyke at a holiday caravan park.

The youths, aged between 14 and 18, who apparently had been staying in a hotel, had been visiting friends who were on a camping holiday at the park, near Skegness, Lincolnshire. Their Montego car crashed through a small wooden fence and flipped over as they drove out of the caravan site shortly before 5am.

A sixth youth in the car, who had suffered minor injuries, managed to clamber out after winding down a window. He was released from hospital in Skegness yesterday. Friends travelling in a second car who were leaving at the same time fought to free those trapped as the car disappeared under 4 ft of water in the 20 ft wide drainage ditch.

Holidaymakers on the Coral Beach caravan site at Ingoldmells helped in the rescue.

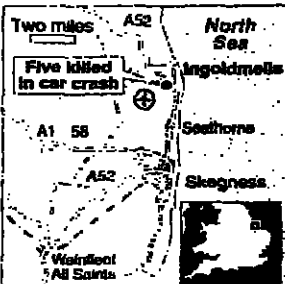
Police arrived at the scene within four minutes, kept into the water and pulled two teenagers clear. One of those pulled out died in hospital.

The officers were joined by firefighters and ambulance crews and the remaining youths were dragged from the car. Lengthy attempts were made to resuscitate the youths, lasting, in one case, three hours, but without success.

All the teenagers were on holiday from Leicester. Police said that they would release their names today after the families had formally identified the bodies.

Ivy Savage, who was staying on the site, was woken by the crash and looked out. "I saw one lad get out from the water on his own - I saw him climbing up the bank. He was in a mess. I think he thought he could go back in and save them but he couldn't."

Jean Twells, whose caravan overlooks the drain, said: "I heard a terrific bang. Then I



saw the wheels of a car, which was upside down, sinking into the water. A chap was on the bank shouting for people with mobile phones to get help. He was hysterical. He said it was his car."

Mrs Twells said that the police had tried to turn the car, so that the teenagers could be pulled out. "Soon after, they managed to break one of the windows and they tried to drag the people out. They put them on plastic sheets and did their best for them but it was obvious it was too late."

Isabelle Bolton, a director of the park, which has 1,000

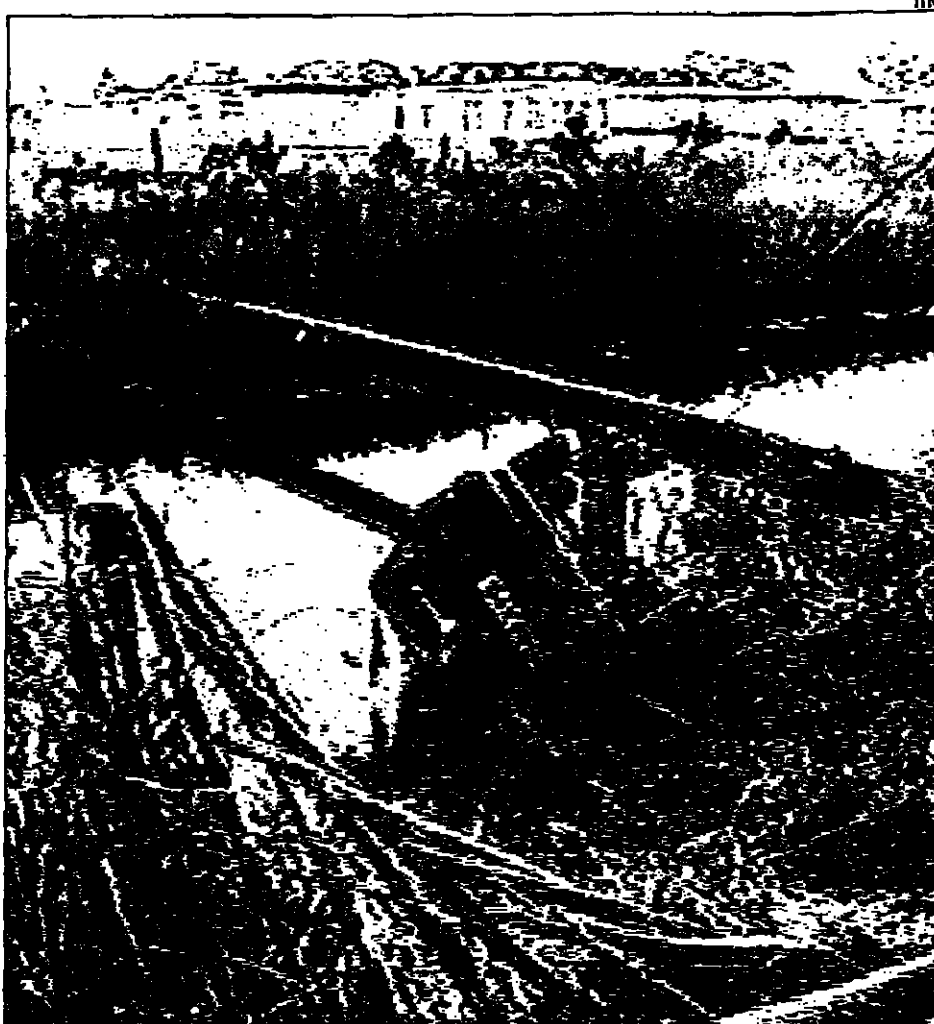
caravans, said that it had been troubled by teenagers speeding in cars after leaving raves at the nearby Fantasy Island.

However, Inspector Les Parker, of Lincolnshire Police, said he believed that the boys had been with friends on the caravan park, possibly after finding themselves locked out of their hotel.

He said he had no reason to believe that they had been to a rave at Fantasy Island. "As far as we know, six young lads who had been staying on the site for some reason were in their car intending to leave when they failed to negotiate a junction."

"There was another group of lads in a car and they were trying to rescue their friends when we arrived. They're all very, very shaken, and very upset, and they've all been taken home."

Officers have been testing skid marks at the scene to assess the car's speed. They were also planning to speak to the dead youths' friends on the site later yesterday.



The scene after the fatal car crash at a Lincolnshire caravan park early yesterday

Rally will mark first fatal road accident

THE 100th anniversary of the first road death in Britain will be marked this week by a rally in London.

Bridget Driscoll, of Croydon, south London, was knocked down by a car on August 17, 1896. At the inquest into Mrs Driscoll's death, the coroner expressed the hope that such a thing would never happen again.

On Saturday, a procession led by relatives of road accident victims and others injured in crashes will start from Gipsy Hill station. Dressed in black and carrying photographs of those who died, they will march to Crystal Palace park where Mrs Driscoll died to lay a wreath.

RoadPeace, a charity for road accident victims, said that since Mrs Driscoll's death, at least 500,000 people had been killed and 30 million injured on the roads. Ten people die and 800 are injured every day. The Government has set a target of reducing road casualties by one third by 2000 compared with the average for 1981-85.

Scottish nets pose fresh risk to porpoises

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FISHERMEN in Scotland have been given clearance to use nets that will kill thousands of porpoises, a species the Government has committed itself to protecting. The order permitting the use of the nets comes into force today amid a chorus of criticism from animal rights and environmental groups.

"This is the worst possible thing that could have been done," says Mark Simmonds of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. "The Government is meant to be protecting the species, not allowing the use of nets which will kill it."

On July 23, two days before Parliament rose, the Inshore Monofilament Gill Net Order was laid by the Scottish Office. It allows Scottish fishermen to use large mesh nets which form a "curtain" rising from the sea bed. The nets are set and left, the fishermen returning later to lift the catch of turbot, halibut and monkfish.

Among them are certain to be many harbour porpoises, the smallest of Britain's dolphins. The porpoises get caught in the mesh and suffocate. They are mammals and need to surface to breathe.

Scottish fishermen have not been permitted to use these nets for the past decade, to restore salmon populations. What has astonished the wildlife charities is that their use is

being allowed just four months after John Gummer, environment secretary, endorsed the US Biodiversity Action Plan, which identifies the harbour porpoise as a species in decline and requiring special protection.

The Scottish Office says that the Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen advised that these nets were no more dangerous to porpoises than others. The order allows their use only outside the six-mile limit, to protect inshore creatures including porpoises.

Fishermen will have to record "bycatches" - species caught by accident - and send the figures to Aberdeen. But the wildlife groups have no doubt that these will include many porpoises.

Research in Danish fisheries in the North Sea recorded an annual catch of 7,000 harbour porpoises in large mesh gill nets. Figures from the environment department show that 38 per cent of the porpoises washed up dead in English and Welsh waters have died in fishing nets.

"We condemn the Government's hypocrisy in trumpeting its launch of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan while extending the use of these deadly nets which threaten one of the very species they claim to protect," says Helen McLachlan, Senior Scientific Officer of the RSPCA.



Porpoise: campaigners say Government has reneged

Successful summer for sex-swap wader

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

ONE of Britain's rarest birds, the red-necked phalarope, has had its most successful breeding season in almost 30 years. At least 40 pairs of the waders, which seldom grow more than six inches long, nested on the Shetland island of Fetlar this year, according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The island's colony is estimated to represent 90 per cent of the British population, nearly all in the Shetland Islands. Phalaropes have been declining in Britain for more than a century because of human disturbance and loss of habitat, and reached a low of no more than 12 pairs in the 1980s.

David Minns, of the RSPB in Edinburgh, said: "We have used mechanical diggers to enlarge the area of breeding pools and introduced grazing by Shetland ponies to keep marshy vegetation



Red-necked phalarope

down to the height that best suits the birds."

Most of a phalarope's life is spent at sea in the South Atlantic or in the Arabian Gulf, but during the summer it returns to land to breed, mostly in the Arctic regions of Iceland, Norway, Russia and Canada. Northern Britain lies at the limit of the birds' breeding range.

Phalaropes are noted for their reversal of the normal sex roles. The more brightly coloured females initiate courtship and change mates every few days, leaving the discarded male to incubate the eggs and raise the chicks.



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The Antonine Wall may have been designed to generate military success for political gain in Rome

Vanishing remains of an emperor's highland fling

Tracing footsteps of the legions

By ALAN HAMILTON



BY ALAN HAMILTON

HARDLY had Hadrian completed the building of his mighty wall from Tyne to Solway than his successor as emperor, Antoninus Pius, declared it redundant. Such is the fate of grandiose strategic defence initiatives, whether launched by ancient emperors or Ronald Reagan.

Antoninus decreed that the frontier of the empire should move some 75 miles to the north: he ordered the construction of a new wall from the Forth to the Clyde. At 36 miles it was less than half the length of Hadrian's and of turf rather than stone, but was still a massive work of engineering which involved detachments of all three British legions in its construction.

But to a height of 6ft, the Antonine Wall was surrounded by a timber palisade, adding another 5ft. As the tolling gangs began and finished their allotted sections they carved and installed intricate commemorative

stones and some splendid examples survive in the Hunterian Museum of the University of Glasgow.

Like its bigger and older brother, the Antonine Wall was accompanied along its entire length by a massive ditch, the vallum, 40ft wide and at least 12ft deep, and to its rear ran a military road.

Although virtually nothing now stands above ground, the Antonine's mounds, ditches and fort foundations leave a visible trail all across the dour and unattractive central belt of Scotland, from Bo'ness on the Forth west of Edinburgh, to Old Kilpatrick on the northern Clyde shore near Dumbarton. After Hadrian's Wall, the Antonine is the largest Roman footprint remaining in Britain and one of the least known.

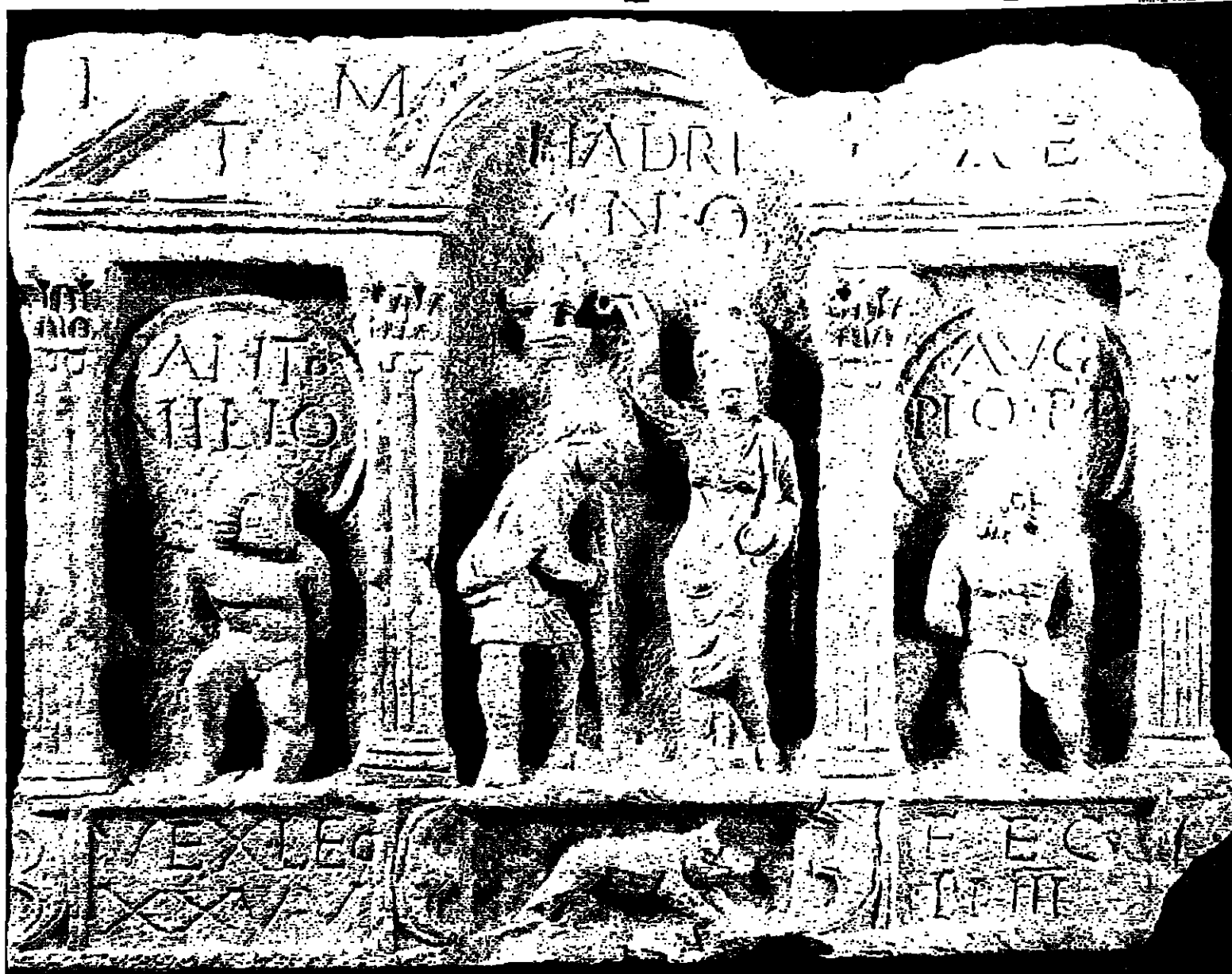
When the fortification was completed in AD 142, Hadrian's Wall was abandoned and its garrison moved up to the new frontier to be housed in a line of 19 forts along the turf wall, the soldiery doubtless muttering at being moved to an even colder billet.

Northern Britain was forever a thorn in the imperial side and the forces of Rome, for all their numerical strength and organisation, never subjugated it. In the early years of occupation, General Julius Agricola had made a determined effort to tame the wild Caledonians, defeating them in AD 81 at the mysterious battle of Mons Graupius, the location of which is unknown but is assumed, on no great evidence, to have been under the hill of Bennachie, near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

But the highlanders did not take their beating lying down. What spurred Antoninus to move the frontier is not clear.

It is likely that southern Scotland was living at peace with its conquerors, while further north the mountain tribes were trying the legions there is no shortage of evidence for Roman marching camps in the Highlands as far north as Aberdeen and there is a particularly fine example at Ardoch, near Banchory, north of Stirling.

It is equally likely that the Caledonians were having a brief respite from doing anything at all, but that Antoninus, like so many politicians before and since, needed a military victory somewhere in



The legions installed carvings in the forts, such as this distance marker from the wall at Hutcheson Hill, now in the Hunterian Museum

the empire to boost his standing at home. General Lollius Urbicus was the man sent to do the job, and the Romans built a fine road, Dere Street, to service the harbours near Edinburgh. The route was roughly that taken by the modern A68 through Bishop Auckland, and the A696 through Jedburgh.

Whatever the reason, the useful life of the Antonine Wall was brief. Within 20 years it had been abandoned, and the garrison re-established on Hadrian's Wall; as likely because of a change of frontier policy dictated from

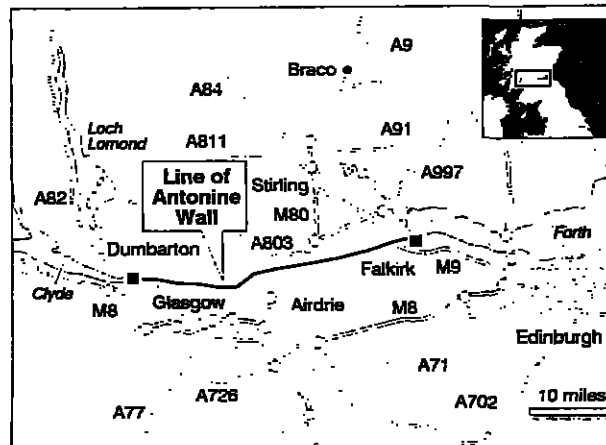
the far distance of Rome as because the Caledonians gained the upper hand. Rome continued to fight the northerners well into the fourth century, by which time the empire was fraying at the edges under the onslaught of Picts, Gauls, Franks and others from beyond the pale. But by that time the Antonine Wall was as irrelevant as the trenches of the Somme against the advance of Hitler.

Dr Lawrence Keppie, reader in Roman archaeology at the University of Glasgow, finds it one of the most commonly held misconcep-

tions that the Romans never got beyond Hadrian's Wall. He also finds widely differing attitudes to that period of history. "In southern Scotland and the borders, they take pride in their Roman history. But in the north there is more hostility to them as imperial aggressors rather than bringers of civilisation. It is all tangled up with Scottish nationalism."

They have long memories, these Highlanders.

Tomorrow: Silchester and Lullingstone



Dr Lawrence Keppie with altar from wall

Popular intellectual to succeed Odone at Catholic Herald

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN who once thought she might become a nun has been appointed Editor of the *Catholic Herald*. She is likely to prove a stark contrast to her predecessor, the high-profile Christina Odone.

Deborah Jones, 48, the deputy editor of *Priests & People*, a highly rated Roman Catholic monthly journal, will take over in October from acting editor Harry Coad, a respected national newspaper journalist who did not apply for the job. Like her predecessor, Miss Jones is a single woman with no children, but there the similarities end.

Miss Odone published a novel this year, called *The Shrine*, about an Italian girl who has religious visions. Known to Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, as the "Odd One", she once said: "My God, I'd love to have sex 9,000 times a day with 6,000 people."

Miss Jones, meanwhile, is author of a seminal work on adult education, which is an

annual sellout to adults who want to convert to Catholicism. In it she writes: "Personal relationships involve a morality which is consistent with Christ-like behaviour. Really loving relationships between men and women require a high degree of generosity, constancy. For men are rarely made from promoting such qualities as these."

She warns: "The deep anxieties which many, particularly young people, have about sex makes them easy prey for those who can exploit these fears and turn them into cash. ... Love, for a Christian, is not a game, a contest or a chance to dominate."

Miss Jones's appointment, due to be announced officially next week, is being welcomed within the church, where bishops speak warmly of her high intellect and integrity. She is an ardent advocate of the modern church reforms introduced by the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. Her friends insist that she will

"have no truck" with traditionalists who want to turn back the clock.

Besides working for *Priests & People*, Miss Jones is in charge of Catholic adult education for the East Anglia diocese. She also works on the diocesan programme for receiving adults into the church. Miss Jones also serves on the bishops' conference committee for theology and is co-chair of the Association of Adult Religious Educators.

She did not apply to be Editor of the *Herald* but was headhunted after her name was recommended to Otto Herschman, chairman of the independent trust that owns the newspaper. According to friends, she was thoroughly surprised by the approach and, being content with her current work, considered deeply before taking the job.

She intends to commission articles from bishops and other church leaders on church affairs, as well as features on world affairs from informed lay men and women. She is



Odone, referred to by Hume as the "Odd One"

known to be critical of recent *Herald* articles such as that by novelist Alice Thomas Ellis, who attacked the ecumenical record of the late Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock.

An insider at the *Herald* said: "We are all delighted. She is tremendously impressive and wonderfully stable, with a lively and independent mind. She is not simply knowledgeable, but has a very careful and considered view which will put her firmly in the great tradition of all the paper's former great editors."

Bathing on beach at Paris? Ah yes, I remember it well

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH ignorance of geography was claimed yesterday by a poll showing that only 35 per cent could correctly identify a picture of Blackpool Tower. The rest thought it was the Eiffel Tower, despite the presence of sea and sunbathers on a beach.

The finding was made more puzzling by the fact that 54 per cent considered Paris to be Europe's most romantic city. Perhaps their visits to the French capital were too occupied with romance for them to develop a closer knowledge of the sights.

The travel company Insight International Tours announced the figures from a random sample of 500 men and women. Italy was voted the best European country for an escape holiday, with the backing of 51 per cent. Less than half knew that the leaning tower of Pisa was in Italy, but 87 per cent correctly identified the country as the original home of the pizza.

On the basic geography of Europe's rivers, 39 per cent knew that the Seine was in

France, 36 per cent knew that the Rhine went through Germany and only 9 per cent could name the countries on the route of the River Danube.

When it came to politics, Tony Blair was recognised by 62 per cent of those questioned, Helmut Kohl by 21 per cent and Jacques Chirac by 17 per cent.

The number of foreign visitors to Britain has slowed perceptively over the past few months. The British Incoming Tour Operators' Association had predicted that the number of people coming to spend a holiday in this country would grow by around 9 per cent between April and June, but the actual increase proved to be no more than 4.5 per cent.

The average cost of a night in a luxury London hotel is now £212.26, producing an annual operating profit of £33,635 per room, according to the latest *Horwath* hotels survey. The average price of a London room was said to be £103.56, against £45.30 for the rest of England.

Appeal honours debt to Indians who served in war

By ALAN HAMILTON

MEMORIES of last August's VJ-Day celebrations, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in the Far East, have struck an unexpected chord with the British public.

A radio appeal by Lord Weatherill, the former Speaker of the House of Commons, for donations to help destitute old soldiers of the Indian Army who volunteered to fight for King George VI against the Japanese has raised £65,000 — and the cheques are still coming in.

Lord Weatherill was speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The Week's Good Cause*. The BBC said yesterday that the amount was more than double the average raised by the radio appeal slot, which gives a platform to a different charity each week.

More than 25 million volunteers from what are now India, Pakistan and Bangladesh rallied to the Allied cause between 1941 and 1945: some 100,000 were killed or wounded and 31 won VC's, the highest number in any army. Lord Weatherill himself served for four years in the Indian Army, as a captain in the 19th King George V's Own Lancers.

The money is being distributed by the British Commonwealth Ex-Services' League, the London-based charity of last resort founded by Earl Haig of Bessyde in 1921 to make emergency payments to destitute Commonwealth veterans and their dependants who are not entitled to receive British Army pensions or charity funds.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sam Pope, a former Royal Marine who will become the league's next secretary-general, said yesterday: "The response has been magnificent. We are wading through 400 letters of support, many of them from retired Indian Army officers now living in Britain."

"But the need is great: the Indian veterans are now very old, ill and unable to work, many are living in conditions of the greatest poverty and starvation in the slums of

Calcutta and they are suffering the effects of inflation in India."

Lieutenant-Colonel Pope said that they had hoped optimistically for £30,000 from the radio appeal and had been astonished by the response. "Older people know what Commonwealth participation in the Second World War was all about. Perhaps the VJ celebrations in London last year brought it home to a younger generation," he said.

Among those who have already been helped by the appeal are Gopal Das, formerly of the Indian Artillery, who is now in his seventies and living under an outside staircase in Calcutta with the good fortune of access to a water tap. The league has given him a few pounds to buy food and oldsmen of clothing.

Another is Amiya Kaur, a former warrant officer in the Indian Women's Auxiliary Corps, who is now too old to work and relies on charity to support herself, a totally disabled sister and a mentally ill brother.

The league believes that there are nearly five million Commonwealth veterans or their dependants around the world — half of them on the Indian subcontinent. Last year it paid out nearly £200,000 in small grants to the most needy, but it fears that its limited funds may not see it through the next ten years, when it expects calls for help to be at their greatest.

Recently the league, whose president is the Duke of Edinburgh, applied to the National Lottery Charities Board for £2 million, but was turned down on the ground that the money would have been spent abroad in contravention of lottery rules.

Now, however, the lottery has said that it will release £25 million in its next round of awards in January to be spent on overseas projects. On behalf of a whole legion of destitute old soldiers of the King, Lieutenant-Colonel Pope will be getting in his application early.

Britain lends America an ear in the hunt for alien life

By ANJANA AHUJA

BRITAIN is about to join the United States in the hunt for alien life. Scientists at Jodrell Bank, site of the country's largest radio telescope, are holding talks with the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence Institute in California, which wants to search the skies above Britain for alien radio signals.

The collaboration will widen the net in the hunt for other civilisations, which has been given added impetus by the evidence last week that primitive life may have existed on Mars.

Professor Frank Drake, president of the SETI Institute at Mountain View, near San Francisco, said: "British scientists have always been rather

conservative in their views about extra-terrestrial life but they have a brilliant record in radio astronomy, so we are thrilled at the prospect of doing something together."

He said that SETI researchers would visit Jodrell Bank, in Cheshire, over several months to make observations with the 76-metre Lovell radio telescope. The incoming signals would be analysed to filter out Earth-based noise, such as from mobile telephones and microwave ovens.

Andrew Lynne, professor of astronomy at Manchester University, which operates the telescope, confirmed that negotiations were under way. The project would be likely to take place within the next two

years, before a possible up-grade of the telescope in 1998. "We would provide the telescope and sensitive receivers, and the SETI Institute would provide the expertise to look at the signals," Professor Lynne said.

A joint project was mooted ten years ago but, because the technology was relatively basic, it was almost impossible to distinguish genuine alien signals from terrestrial noise. "Now scientists can sort the wheat from the chaff," he said.

Professor Lynne agreed that the news about Mars last week had stirred interest in such projects: "Our *raison d'être* is to further research into the universe as a whole and the question of other



Jodrell Bank's expertise in radio astronomy will be combined with America's ability to analyse signals

civilisations is of great public interest. Now, possibly, the time is right."

Nasa first proposed the idea of combing space for alien signals in the 1970s. The greatest hope of a break-

through came in 1977, when a mysterious signal was detected by scientists at Ohio State University. It was nicknamed the "Wow" signal after an excited researcher scribbled the exclamation on a printout.

The signal was never detected again nor explained satisfactorily, although scientists are sure it was of intelligent origin.

Three years ago budget pressure led the United States Congress to withdraw funding from the search for alien life forms. The SETI Institute was set up as a distinct organisation with similar aims in 1984 and is financed by private donations.

As well as being president of the SETI Institute, Professor Drake holds a chair in astronomy and astrophysics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In 1960 he became the first astronomer to scan the skies for extra-terrestrial signals.

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THE TIMES MONDAY

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Tory Euro jitters save duty-frees from dustbin of history

If you happen to be holidaying in Europe and have a few spare seconds when stuck in a duty-free checkout queue behind a line of tanned shopaholics, try asking yourself a question. Why does "duty-free" still exist?

Search me. The single market means — at the very least — abolishing tax frontiers on goods going to and from the European Union. Allowing travellers to buy tax-free perfume, whisky and tobacco in planes or the floating supermarkets otherwise known as cross-Channel ferries makes no sense at all. Fitting "allow-



ances" for each traveller, as Britain does, piles lunacy on idiosyncrasy. Next time you watch customs officers unpacking the 800 cans of lager that a minivan driver claims he bought for "personal use",

remember that the officers could be spending their time rooting out real crime such as heroin smuggling.

No one disputes that duty-free is an anachronistic nonsense, not even the duty-free people themselves. "Duty and tax-free has no intrinsic logic," says the Duty-Free Confederation with brazen candour, before adding "but it works for the benefit of all."

The formidably well-focused confederation has outperformed most of its rivals in the arm-twisting stakes in Brussels by delaying the abolition of duty-free from the EU until 1999. Its lobbyists hope to push even that dead-

line away into the next century. The anti-Brussels mood inside the Tory Party helps. The European Commission confirmed last month that duty-free would disappear three years from now; to judge by the ensuing fuss, you might imagine that the mild Italian Commissioner, Mario Monti, had suggested abolishing the Union Jack, dynamiting the Houses of Parliament and putting up a statue to Jacques Delors in Trafalgar Square.

Tory MPs fulminated. "Destruction of British interests," growled Bill Cash. "Lunatic act of bureaucracy," rumbled his colleague, Sir

Gerard Vaughan. Only the chairman of the Tory backbench finance committee, John Townend, who happens to be a wine merchant, saw the point. "Phasing-out in the long term is probably a good thing," he said cautiously, "but it will be unpopular."

Even Mr Townend has forgotten that a long-term phase-out was exactly what EU ministers decided back in 1992, when duty-free should have disappeared into the dustbin of history. Back in the 1980s a Conservative British Commissioner in Brussels, Lord Cockfield, thought politicians should

face up to a little unpopularity for the sake of a principle, frontier-free trade, which Tories say they back.

Turn the pages of the 1992 edition of *The Times Guide to the Single European Market* and you will find two of my colleagues noting: "Everyone involved in the duty-free industry accepts that abolition is merely a question of time."

Airport and ferry shops were adapting. Dublin airport was even then selling more black silk lingerie than most department stores in the city because the retailers had spotted that the men who bought it for wives and girl-

friends spent a lot of time in airports but practically none in city centre underwear shops.

Duty-free began as a perk for sailors, allowed to buy cheap drink and tobacco to alleviate long, rough journeys. Around 200 years later, the UK industry sells £1 billion of goods a year and says almost three-quarters of that would be lost if the EU ended the system. The tax break given by the Government puts sales revenue in the pockets of airports: 40 per cent of all pre-tax profits in places such as Birmingham and Newcastle. So the Government is cross-subsidising

the airport industry. But it could more logically give a tax break to help the turnover of shops in depressed areas such as Liverpool or the Isle of Wight. Airlines have been begging government for years to make arrangements which don't force them to fly heavy cargoes of flammable and unnecessary duty-free alcohol in passenger jets.

The survival of the duty-free industry is a testimony to the Government's terror of all debate about Europe — and holds it hostage to an industry so dyslexic that it couldn't read the writing on the wall.

GEORGE BROCK

Lebed seeks truce as thousands flee carnage in Grozny

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ALEKSANDR LEBED, the Kremlin's security chief and newly appointed troubleshooter on Chechnya, flew to the Caucasus yesterday on a mission to end the worst fighting in Grozny in more than a year.

As fierce battles raged for a sixth day between thousands of separatist rebels and heavily reinforced Russian troops for control of the Chechen capital, there were concerns that the breakaway republic was on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe unless a ceasefire could be imposed.

Thousands of refugees from Grozny, many clutching white flags, poured out of the city, braving sniper fire and renewed heavy artillery barrages in an effort to reach safety and search for desperately needed food, water and medical supplies.

In the shattered Chechen capital repeated attempts by Russian forces to flush out the insurgents appeared to have made little headway, as casualty figures for the Russians climbed to as many as 200 dead and 800 injured.

During fighting yesterday the rebels claimed to have wiped out a column of Russian armour just outside the city, killing 150 soldiers. Witnesses

in the capital could not confirm the claim, but they did report that heavy street fighting was under way and that the rebels appeared to be digging in for a prolonged action. One report said that the Chechens had a free hand through large parts of Grozny and were even using captured Russian soldiers to build trenches and other defences.

Some military experts believe that the Russians are virtually in the same position as in January 1995, when they launched a month-long siege to force the rebels out of Grozny, an operation which left thousands dead and destroyed most of the city.

Reports from the region contrasted sharply with the official version of events in Moscow, where General Igor Rodionov, the Defence Minister, told parliament on Saturday that the "situation was difficult" but that "the initiative has passed to the federal forces".

The military's latest act of incompetence prompted President Yeltsin to give a warning of disciplinary actions being taken against those in the security forces responsible for "gross miscalculations". The remark was a reference

to the dismal performance of Russian forces on the ground, who were taken by surprise in last week's rebel offensive, even though the assault had been widely expected to coincide with the Russian leader's inauguration on Friday.

Mr Yeltsin, who postponed his holiday to hold crisis meetings yesterday with top aides, first acted against Oleg Lobov, a long-time confidant. He was replaced as the Kremlin's representative on Chechnya by General Lebed, the gruff former paratrooper who has long advocated a peaceful settlement with the Chechens.

His mission appeared to get off to a good start since he won the backing of the Chechen rebel leadership and, possibly more importantly, the support of key figures in Moscow.

Over the weekend, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was confirmed as Prime Minister by the Duma, the lower house of parliament, said the former paratrooper was the only man for the job. "Lebed is a military man, he is used to tackling these sorts of problems," Mr Chernomyrdin said. "I am sure that he will cope with the task. He simply must do this."

Movladi Udugov, the



A Chechen fighter dashes between stalls at the central market in Grozny, where renewed fighting has raged for six days

Chechen separatist spokesman, was less enthusiastic, but said that the rebels would give him the benefit of the doubt. "If General Lebed fulfills his electoral promises, then we can only welcome him," he said. "We will do all we can so Russian state interests are preserved in the Caucasus and Chechnya and Russia get out of this war while saving face."

Although in principle both sides would like to reactivate the Nazran agreement signed in June, which calls for a ceasefire and the gradual demilitarisation of the republic, the deal was easier said than done.

On his way down to neighbouring Dagestan yesterday, General Lebed must have known that by travelling to the seat of the fire he is taking

upon himself a dangerous mission. As several ministers, military commanders and top diplomats have already learnt to their cost, getting into Chechnya is much easier than getting out.

□ Dublin: The European Union has expressed serious concern at the situation in Chechnya and appealed to the Russian Army and separatist rebels to cease fire immediately.

The Irish Government, current holders of the EU presidency, said the Union "deplores" in particular, the ensuing civilian casualties and the suffering that a continuation of the violence is causing to the Chechen people. It also called for measures to ensure the safety of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe assistance group in Chechnya. (Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rome air security 'is faulty'

Rome: Italian officials yesterday said that security at Rome and Milan airports was "of a high international standard" despite an Interior Ministry report which found that a large number of X-ray machines for checking hand baggage were faulty and outdated (Richard Owen writes).

According to *Il Messaggero*, security agents hid knives and handguns inside hand luggage, but the scanning machines failed to detect them.

Rallies disrupted

Tuzla: Gangs apparently organised by the ruling Muslim party and backed by police disrupted opposition parties' rallies at Gradacac and Kalesija and forced the cancellation of one in Celic. (AP)

Peking offer

Hong Kong: China seems to be offering an olive branch to Hong Kong democrats by hinting they can join the selection process for the territory's leader after Chinese rule restarts next year. (Reuters)

Seen and gone

Sofia: Granny Vanga, 85, a Bulgarian psychic whose prophetic powers won her admirers across the Balkans and beyond, died of cancer. Relatives said she had predicted the time of her death. (Reuters)

Diet puts extra life into Japan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE Japanese are outliving the rest of the world largely due to a diet heavy in fish, seaweed and soyabean curd, supplemented by Western food.

The Health and Welfare Ministry reported that last year's life expectancy for Japanese women was 82.84 years, and for men was 76.36. The women took top place in the longevity charts for the eleventh consecutive year, and the men for a tenth year running.

In longevity for women, Sweden came second at 81.38 years, followed by Hong Kong's 81.16 years. Sweden was also second in the men's league at 76.08 years and Hong Kong third at 75.84 years. Britain and the US were well outstripped by Japan.

Fatal Spanish campsite 'flouted building rules'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN BIESCAS

THE Spanish campsite in which 83 people were killed in a flash flood last week was illegally built, a newspaper has claimed.

El Mundo said yesterday that Camping Las Nieves, near Biescas in northern Spain, "was situated in a place forbidden by law". A regional law prohibits the establishment of campsites in "dry beds of streams and rivers, or in any area susceptible to flooding". Camping Las Nieves was in the middle of the dry bed of the Aras stream, which overflowed last Wednesday washing people, tents, caravans and cars into the nearby Gállego river. Forty people are still unaccounted for.

The Green Party has called for the regional Aragón authorities to be prosecuted for negligence, as well as for legal action to be taken against the local water board, which owns

the freehold on the land where the campsite was built.

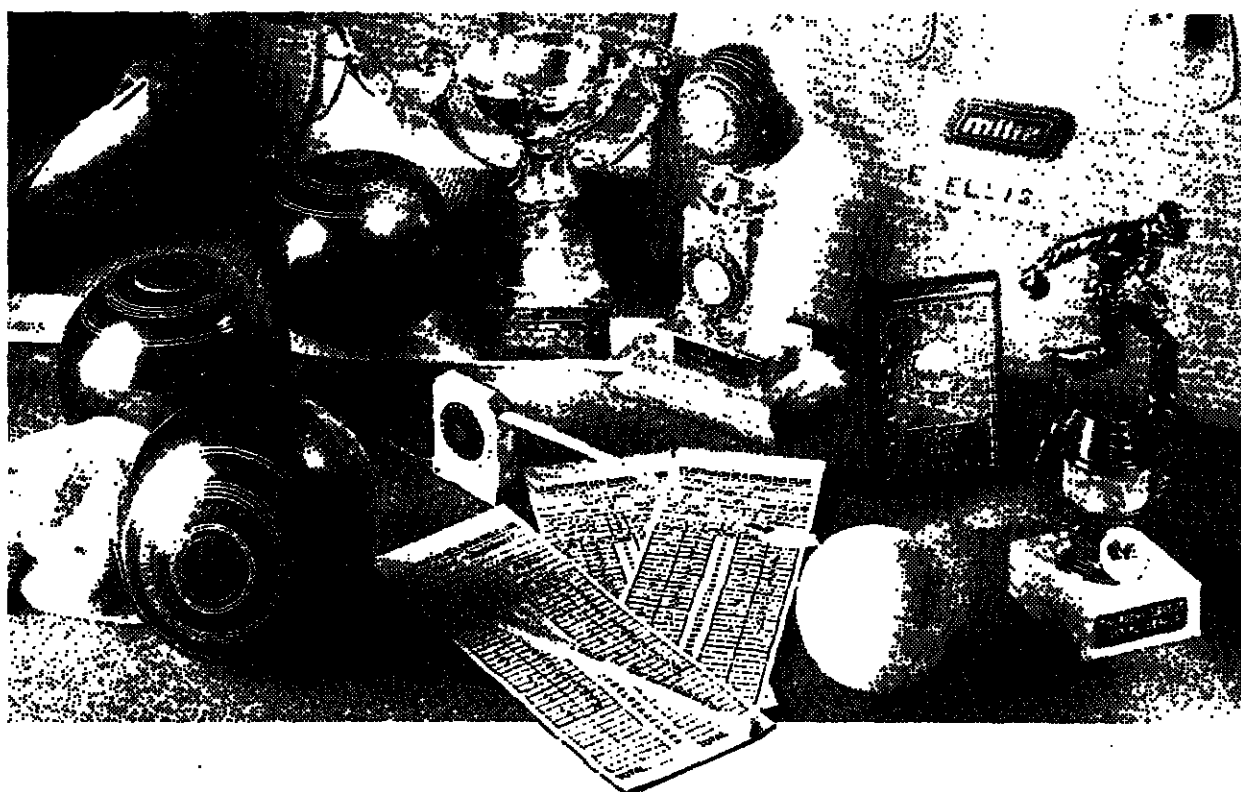
Under intense pressure from the press, Margarita Mariscal de Gante, the Minister for Justice, announced yesterday that the chief magistrate of Huesca, the province in which the campsite was situated, would begin his investigations "shortly".

Rafael Zapatero, the councillor for tourism of the regional administration, has sought to defend the siting by saying that "a flood of this intensity could happen in the area only once every 1,000 years, at most". However, in 1940 there was a flood of similar proportions in exactly the same place, in which a bus was washed away.

Other evidence is beginning to emerge, which could help survivors or relatives of the dead who wish to sue the regional government. The Aragón High Court had in 1989 ordered a halt to the building of a campsite nearby, as it was deemed to be in an area of "high risk". In spite of that decision, the regional officials chose not to revoke the licence of Camping Las Nieves, built in 1988.

When the proprietor of Camping Las Nieves submitted his application for a licence in 1986, a geologist said that the site was unsuitable and recommended refusal, but his report was ignored by the regional authorities.

The final piece of negligence would appear to be the failure by the regional authorities on Wednesday to alert the town council of Biescas, which oversees the campsite, of the firm warning it had received from the meteorological office of "storms and extremely heavy downpours" in that precise area.



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Hard-up Italians holiday at home

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AS MILLIONS of Italians yesterday began the annual exodus to the coast, police stepped up their hunt for the "Unabomber of the beaches", who has planted crude homemade pipe bombs inside furled beach umbrellas at Adriatic resorts near Trieste.

The bombs have come at a bad time for the Italian tourist industry, facing profits well down on last year. Hoteliers are cutting prices to entice visitors to seaside and mountain resorts. Economic belt-tightening is leading to changing holiday patterns, with many Italians opting for summer in the city, enjoying traffic-free streets and rediscovering Italy's wealth of art treasures.

The Adriatic incidents are confined to a small area, and one of the bombs, at Bibione, failed to go off. But another exploded last week at Lignano, seriously injuring a sunbather. The Mayor of Lignano, Stefano Trabaldo, assured holidaymakers that



Pipe bombs and less money mean emptier beaches

his "golden sands" resort was "not Atlanta", a reference to the much larger pipe bomb that exploded during the Olympic Games.

An estimated 15 million cars clogged the roads out of Italy's major cities yesterday as families marked the start of Ferragosto, the traditional mid-August break. But tourist authorities reported that bookings in many hotels and campsites were 20 to 30 per cent down on last year.

Utility companies confirmed domestic use of elec-

tricity, gas and water in urban areas was much higher than usual as people stayed put despite the heat. Some shops and restaurants which normally close, turning Rome and Milan into ghost towns, have stayed open.

The "Adriatic Unabomber" has certainly not helped. Newspapers yesterday carried pictures of police searching under beach deckchairs with metal detectors. One police theory is that the "mad umbrella dynamiter", as the Italian press has dubbed him,

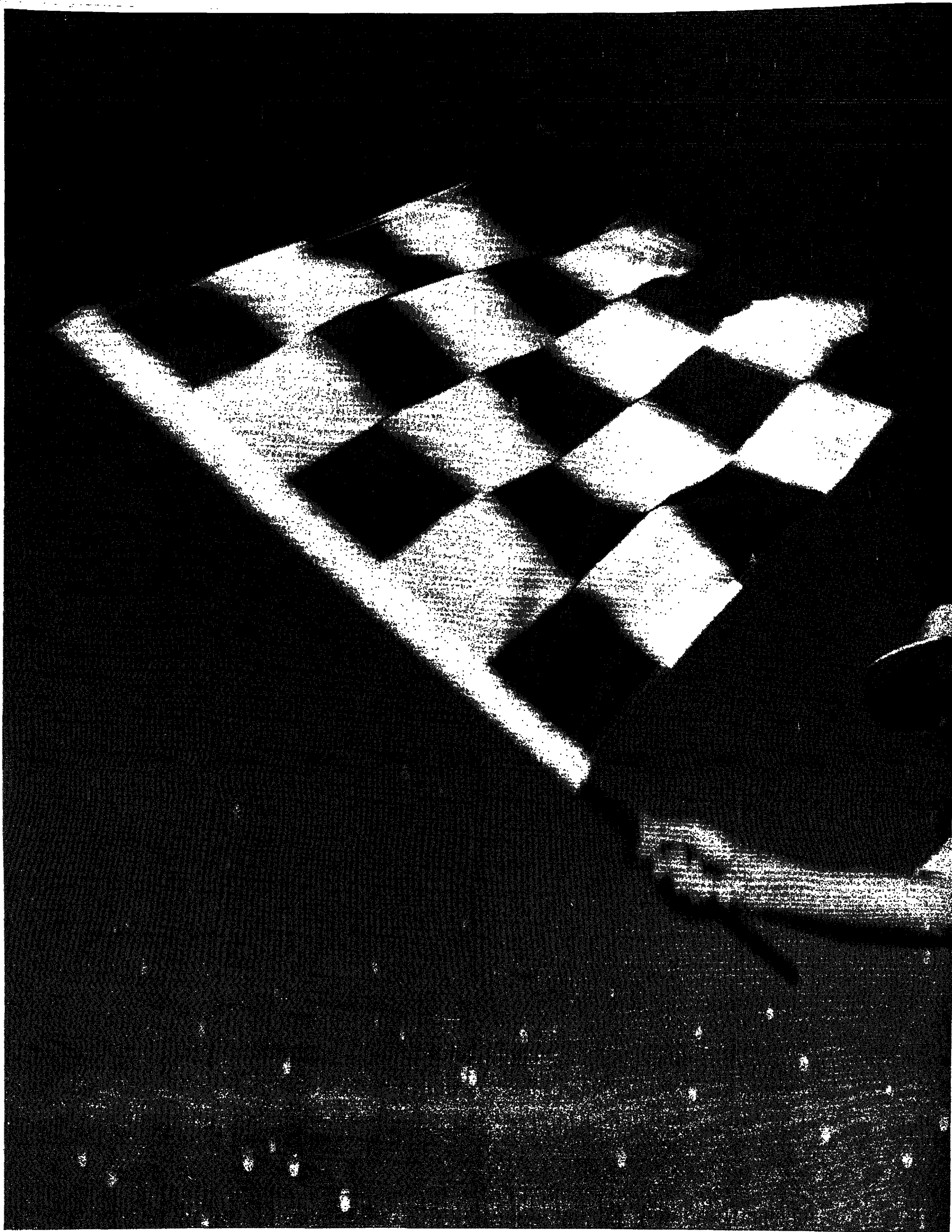
is a solitary campaigner against hedonism and capitalism's excesses in the mould of the American Unabomber.

Police also fear "copycat" bombings after the discovery yesterday of hoax pipe bombs on beaches near Venice.

But the main reason for the change in holiday habits is economic. The new centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi, which took office in May, has begun to get a grip on the economy, reducing inflation and the budget deficit. But economists say the "feel-good factor" has yet to take hold.

Media reports that excessive sunbathing can lead to cancer and infertility are also having an effect, as are reports that seawater quality at many of Italy's popular Mediterranean and Adriatic resorts fall below European Union environmental standards.

Il Messaggero yesterday predicted one positive side-effect of the changing pattern. Normally, it said, "when city dwellers go away to relax, the burglars go to work."



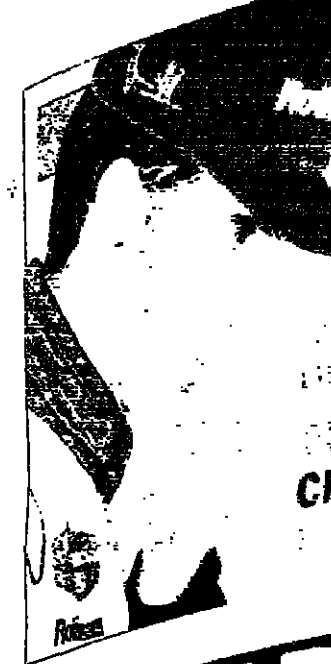
The Audi quattro was the only car to carry a 95kg handicap. Here's the result.

The standard weight penalty for a four wheel drive car in the Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship is 65kg. So it came as quite a surprise when, in an effort to give everyone else a chance, the Audi A4 quattro was asked to carry a further 30kg penalty. The combined equivalent of a 15 stone passenger. But with a car as good as the A4 quattro you don't take offence, you just keep taking the flag.

Audi
Vorsprung durch Technik



John 1:30



T



Shearer un-
Canto

Manchester United
Newcastle United

By Rob H...

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

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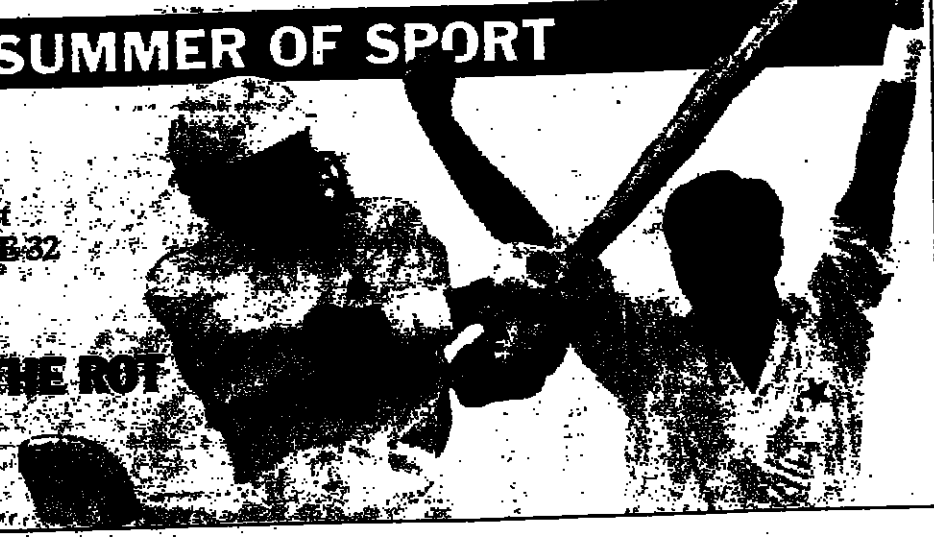
TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT



SECOND BEST FOR HILL
Villeneuve closes gap in world motor racing championship
Oliver Holt, PAGE 23
PLUS: US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP
Full report and details, PAGE 22



CIGAR SMOKED
The wonder horse runs out of puff at last
PAGE 32



STOPPING THE ROT
England expect at Headingley
PAGE 25

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY AUGUST 12 1996



Beckham receives a congratulatory hug from Cruyff after scoring the third of Manchester United's four Wembley goals against Newcastle United yesterday. Photographs: Julian Herbert

Shearer upstaged as Double-winners claim Charity Shield Cantona steals the thunder

Manchester United 4
Newcastle United 0
By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IF ALAN SHEARER is the most costly individual to walk the turf of legends, Eric Cantona demonstrated at Wembley yesterday afternoon that he remains the most precious. For, while Shearer pined for the ball that seldom came, while Manchester United outpaced, outplayed and outwitted the pretenders from the North East, it was Cantona — one-fifteenth the cost of the £15 million Shearer — who inspired and led the Double-winners to such an emphatic victory in the FA Charity Shield.

One is tempted to say that there was an ordinary man, elevated by birthright and by his goals among Englishmen, competing against one who is extraordinary, who is French, and who reached yet again the extremes of wonderful touch and vision. Cantona might also have been sent off when his infamous temper erupted in the second half, but he received merely a yellow card for a physical assault on Philippe Albert that prefaced the turn from sunshine to a glowering late thunderstorm.

But how Manchester United proved their worth. It was not all about Shearer, and never could be. There is no point in possessing an idol, indeed in having £16.25 million of spare talents on the bench, if you are not a team, and from the start, as Newcastle groped for a pat-

tern, the other United were first into their stride, first to flow. They commanded midfield through Keane and Butt. At the back, May and Pallister stretched stride for stride with Shearer and Ferdinand.

And then there was Mr Irresistible: Cantona, a pariah at the beginning of last season, this time raising the curtain on the English season by shaking hands with Keith Wiseman and introducing the new Football Association chairman to his colleagues.

Early on there was potency from Newcastle's £21 million spearhead: Ferdinand, in particular, bristled with powerful determination and, in the eighth minute, a delicate flick would have opened up the

Manchester defence, but Shearer was not yet on that wavelength. He read the invitation rather too late, and red shirts closed the door. It was scarcely to open again. In the 24th minute, Giggs, with wonderful insight, passed the ball between Newcastle's cumbersome centre backs for Cantona. Smitcek came out to deflect the ball with his legs. Cantona was denied for 30 seconds. Like the Pimpernel he reappeared unseen on the other side of the penalty box and this time, prompted by Beckham, he controlled the ball at a touch, waited, and then coolly passed the ball beyond the stranded goalkeeper.

Cantona was involved

again, as was Beckham, in a second goal four minutes later. The move swept half the length of the field as the ball flowed from Keane to Giggs and then to Cantona. He, audaciously, backheeled it to Beckham, whose control on

Simon Barnes 27
Sharpe's move 27
Shaky Celtic 27

the chest was polished and whose right foot then struck the ball across the face of goal for Butt, unmarked, to score with a flying header.

It was clear that, far from handing any of the serious silverware to their most ambi-

tious opponents, Manchester United did not even have the charity to allow Newcastle to dream seriously of taking home this shield.

For Shearer, growing more forlorn by the minute, it may have dawned that he had chosen wrong when he rejected Old Trafford in favour of St James' Park. Defiantly, he was to say that Newcastle would be all right, his implication being that they had lost the rehearsal but that the real season begins at Everton next Saturday. True enough, but all the euphoria of his chosen homecoming was to be further undermined when Manchester United came late with two cruel goals.

Before that, especially when

Asprilla injected some brilliant if unorthodox individual flair to Newcastle, there had been fractious interchanges. Not the least of these blackened Cantona's afternoon. In the 65th minute, Gary Neville had fouled Albert, and when they squared up, Cantona ran 15 yards to shake Albert by the back of the neck. Pandemonium. The Geordies were baying and even Cantona went red around the gills. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, feared the worst, but the referee, Paul Durkin, abdicated responsibility, flourished the yellow card, and allowed Cantona to remain as man of the match.

Five minutes from the end, Newcastle also abdicated the art of defence. They stood four square when Beckham was allowed to bear down on Smitcek and lift the ball artfully over the goalkeeper. Three minutes later, Poborsky, the frisky Czech Republic winger, was fouled by Albert. Giggs placed the free kick superbly for Keane, and the Irishman's thunderbolt under darkening skies was too fierce for Smitcek to hold.

It was that emphatic. Ferguson was able to say, how well he had shopped around looking for summer bargains, and Newcastle retreated, wounded, to their moribund haven in the North East.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Smitcek — D. Butt (sub: G. Neville, 46min), D. May, G. Pallister, P. Neville — D. Beckham, R. Keane, N. Butt (sub: P. Robinson, 41), R. Giggs — E. Cantona — P. Scholke (sub: J. Cruyff, 85).
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P. Scholke — S. Watson, D. Peacock, P. Albert, J. Dwyer — P. Beardsley (sub: F. Asprilla, 75), D. Baty, R. Lee, D. Gaze (sub: K. Gillespie, 77) — A. Shearer, L. Ferdinand. Referee: P. Durkin.



Shearer, Newcastle's £15 million man, is brought to earth as Cantona, right, scores the opening goal



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MOTOR RACING: ENGLISHMAN'S POOR START GIVES VILLENEUVE THE CHANCE OF A THRILLING FINISH TO THE SEASON

Hill struggles to unpick championship gridlock

DAMON HILL turned the Hungarian Grand Prix into a 77-lap act of atonement here yesterday but it would not forgive him his original sin. In vain, he pushed himself to the limits to try to wipe out the advantage he had handed to Jacques Villeneuve at the start, and in the heat and the dust of the Hungarian race the young Canadian dragged the destiny of the world drivers' championship back into the melting pot.

Villeneuve's victory and Hill's fighting second place clinched the constructors' championship for Williams in the most emphatic way but it reduced the Englishman's lead over his team-mate in the race for the drivers' title to 17 points, with four races remaining. The rest are out of the running: there are just the two of them now.

Hill remains the strong favourite, of course, not least because he has tried away from the circuit, heading for a promotional trip to Bulgaria, rightly refusing to be downcast by a gritty, unrelenting performance that lacked for nothing save his speed off the starting grid. "I hate losing in any circumstances," he said, "but if I could ever be satisfied with second place, it is probably today."

Yesterday's result, though, adds a tantalising air of unpredictability to the remaining quarter of a season that had once seemed likely to provide only a prolonged coronation party for Hill. He can no longer wrap the championship up at Spa, Belgium, in a fortnight and it now seems likely the struggle will last at least to the penultimate race in Estoril, Portugal.

"If I had to choose," Patrick Head, the technical director at Williams, said, "I would rather be in the position of the man who has the 17-point lead. But if Jacques wins at Spa and says Damon has a mechanical problem, it would be down to seven points and that is nothing. Jacques has raised his game in the last few races and he is now in the same area of performance as Damon."

The race here was won and lost in the first few seconds as Hill made his third consecutive poor start and was engulfed by a stream of snarling

OLIVER HOLT



At the Hungarian Grand Prix

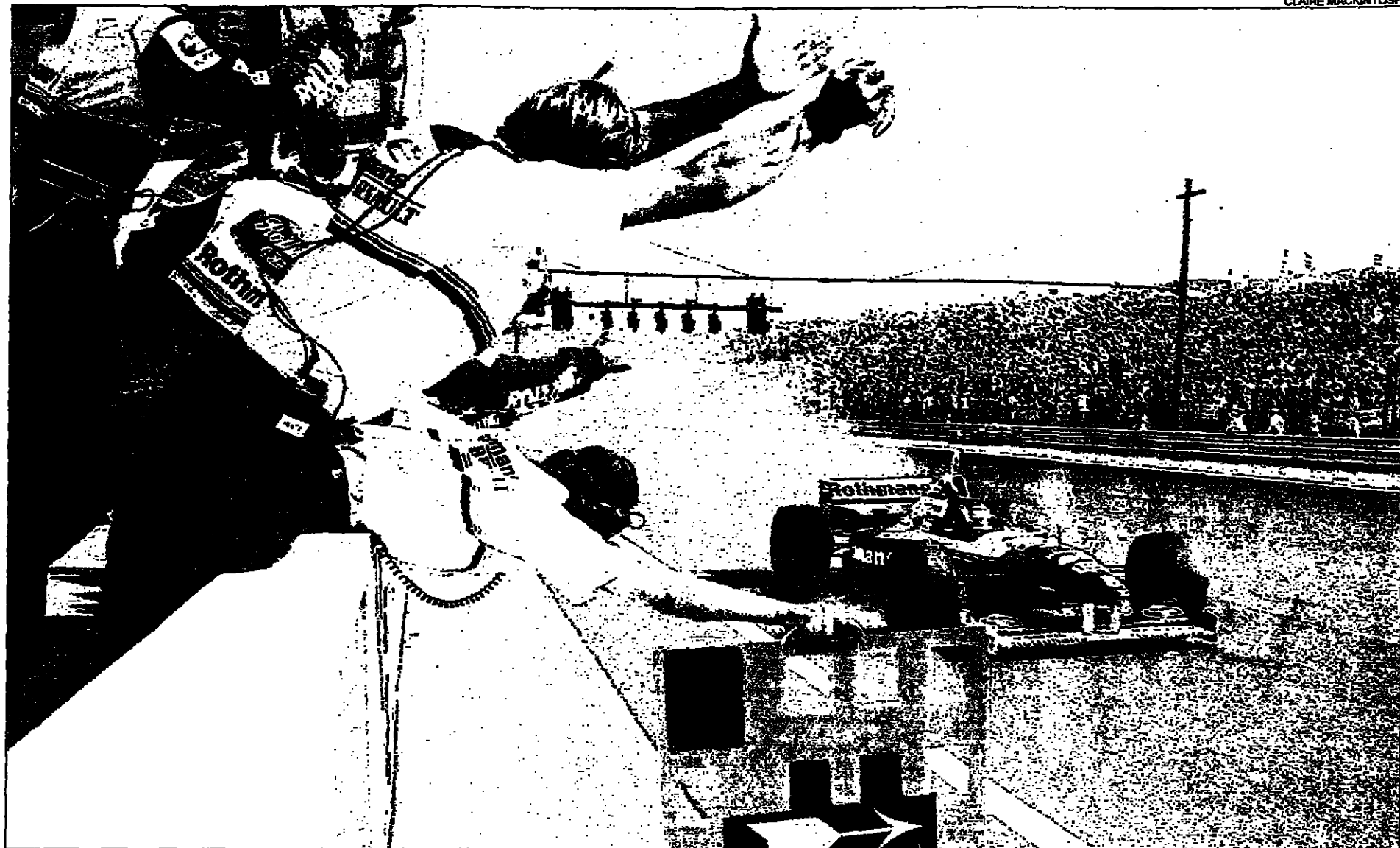
rivals. The Ferrari of Michael Schumacher pulled safely away from pole position but Hill, starting alongside him on the front row, was overtaken by Villeneuve and the Benetton-Renault of Jean Alesi before the dip down and to the right at the end of the pit straight.

As Schumacher and Villeneuve tore off into the distance, Hill was stuck behind the slower car of Alesi. By the time Villeneuve made his first pit stop after 21 laps, overtaking Schumacher in the process, he had roared to a 20sec lead over his team-mate. Hill made his own stop four laps later and emerged in fourth place, behind Alesi once more.

He refused to give up, though, and confounded the critics who accuse him of going to pieces when he is not in the lead, by forcing Alesi into a mistake on the 31st lap and overtaking him on a track where it is notoriously difficult to pass. From then on he was clearly the fastest driver on the circuit, cutting huge chunks out of the times of the leading drivers.

Villeneuve, though, never gave him any real hope of victory. He did what he had to do, driving within himself until Hill reached him in the last ten laps of the race. By then Schumacher had been forced to retire with a throttle problem while running third and the two Williams drivers fought for victory right to the chequered flag.

When Villeneuve made his third and final stop, a wheel-



Villeneuve punches the air in celebration as he passes members of the Williams team in the pits after completing his victory in the Hungarian Grand Prix yesterday

nut cross-threaded and it seemed for a few seconds that he might be delayed long enough for Hill to hurdle past. The problem was solved just in time, however, and Villeneuve darted out in front. From then onwards, Hill's only hope was a mistake from the Canadian. Villeneuve never made it.

Much of the post-race inquest centred on the start and the respective merits of hand-held clutches, as used by Villeneuve, and foot-operated ones of the type used by Hill. The way the clutch works does not suit me," Hill said. "I

am working very hard to get Williams to provide me with one I can use."

"I was disgusted with my start. I have lost count of the number of times the start has cost me places on the first lap but it has got to be fixed. I lost the race in the first ten laps. It was just over. I was doing all I could but by the time I eventually got past Jean, Jacques and Michael were long gone."

"When I came out after the first pit stop, I just could not believe it when Jean went past again as I was on the exit road. My heart sank. I thought,

'Crikey, not another 25 laps behind Alesi,' but fortunately he went wide and I slipped past him. The last few races are going to be thrilling for the viewers now but tough for Jacques and I."

It was Villeneuve's third win of the season and perhaps his most impressive, given that he was not expected to be competitive on a circuit he had never driven on before and that is harder than most to learn. He was delighted by his victory but his eyes are on the bigger prize.

"We had a comfortable lead in the constructors' champion-

ship anyway," he said. "But now it is decided. Damon and I can really fight it out. I was not really pushing for much of the race, but when Damon got close I started to push."

If the drivers' championship is still in the balance, though, Williams ended the hopes of their rivals in the unequal struggle for the constructors' title, equalling Ferrari's record of eight championships. They now lead Benetton by 90 points.

"It's a brilliant team effort and I'm thrilled to bits about it," Frank Williams, the team owner, said.

DETAILS FROM BUDAPEST

RESULT (77laps, 305.536km): 1. J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1hr 46min 21.134sec (av speed 172.372kph); 2. D Hill (GB, Williams) at 0.7sec; 3. J Alesi (Fr, Benetton) 1min 24.212sec; 4. M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1lap; 5. O Panis (Fr, Ligier); 6. R Barrichello (Br, Jordan); 7. U Katajama (Japan, Tyrrell); 8. R Rosset (Br, Footwork); 9. M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari); 10. G Lavaggi (It, Minardi) 8 Did not finish; 11. G Berger (Austria, Benetton) 64 laps completed; 12. H-Frentzen (Ger, Sauber) 50; 13. J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 35; 14. E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 31; 15. P Lamy (Por, Minardi) 24; 16. D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 23; 17. J Verstappen (Hol, Footwork) 10; 18. M Brundie (GB, Jordan) 5; 19. P Dini (Br, Ligier) 1. Did not start (failed to finish first lap):

20. M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell) Fastest lap: Vill 120.055 (178.352 kph). WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1. Hill 79pts; 2. Villeneuve 62; 3. Alesi 35; 4. Schumacher 29; 5. Hakkinen 19; 6. Coulthard 18; 7. Berger 18; 8. Panis 13; 9. Barrichello 12; 10. Irvine 9; 11. Frentzen 8; 12. Salo 5; 13. Herbert 4; 14. Brundie 3; equal 15. Verstappen 2; McLaren 3; Jordan 1; Constructors: 1. Williams 141; 2. Benetton 51; 3. Ferrari 38; 4. McLaren 37; 5. Jordan 15; 6. Ligier 14; 7. Sauber 10; 8. Tyrrell 5; 9. Footwork 1. REMAINING GRANDS PRIX: Aug 26: Belgium, Spa-Francorchamps; Sept 8: Italian, Monza; Sept 22: Portuguese, Estoril; Oct 13: Japanese, Suzuka.

MOTORSPORT

Biela puts himself on course for title

By MARK FOGARTY

FRANK BIELA, the World Cup champion, finally conceded yesterday that the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship is his for the taking after scoring his seventh victory of the series, at Oulton Park.

Biela, of Germany, won the twentieth round of the 26-race series from pole position in his four-wheel drive Audi A4 after finishing a close second in the nineteenth round, extending his overall lead in the championship to an effectively unassailable 80 points.

He needs just one more win to clinch the title. "For the first time I agree that the championship is safe," Biela said. "The next two races at Thruxton on August 26 are still important, but I'd like to win the championship there so that I can really try hard in the final two meetings of the series."

Biela's nearest rival for the title, Rickard Rydell, of Sweden, fell out of all but mathematical contention by following a distant fifth in the first race yesterday with an untimely retirement from the second, caused by his Volvo 850 suffering a front suspension breakage after colliding with the Vauxhall Vectra of John Cleland.

Rydell's failure to add significantly to his points tally places him in danger of being overtaken for second place in the championship by Alain Menu, who narrowly beat Biela in the first race in his Renault Laguna and was third in the second.

Trailing Rydell by just two points, Menu, of Switzerland, has revived his chances of finishing runner-up for the third year in a row.

Biela, contesting the championship for the first time, has never been headed since winning the opening two races at Donington Park four months ago. He has continued to build on his early advantage despite the Audi, the only four-wheel drive in the field, receiving an additional 30 kilogramme weight handicap after winning five of the first eight races.

RUGBY LEAGUE: EMPHATIC VICTORY AGAINST LOWLY PARIS PUTS TITLE WITHIN TOUCHING DISTANCE

St Helens close in on their pot of gold

Paris Saint-Germain 12
St Helens 32

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

A RAINBOW stretched across the Charley Stadium on a brooding, wet Parisian night. Beneath it, St Helens edged closer to their pot of gold by a display of model thoroughness, discipline and professionalism. They now have the Stones Super League title firmly in their sights and nothing, not even cursed opposition and cursed conditions, were going to deflect them on Saturday.

Another noteworthy sporting feat of 1996 was St Helens's last championship and Challenge Cup double. Few would now wager against it being realised again. Consistency, a quality not always apparent in St Helens sides of the previous 30 years, is the main reason they are edging Wigan.

His players gave a good account of themselves, but John Kear, the Paris coach, accurately summed up the difference by a description of St Helens's performance as "un-St Helens". "The pitch was saturated, but they adapted immediately, controlled the ball, and defended superbly," Kear said. "We asked the questions, but they answered the lot. There aren't the silly errors any more, nor extravagance for extravagance sake. They are totally one-eyed in terms of the championship, and I think they're there."

The St Helens boat is not quite in yet. Wigan could have a say, provided they overcome London Broncos on Saturday

and St Helens self-destruct against Sheffield Eagles 24 hours later. However, St Helens have survived their most sterling tests and, correctly, are adopting a heads-down policy. By maintaining their unbeaten home record in their final two games, they will become champions.

Should the Broncos go one better than their draw at Wigan in June, and the crowning ceremony is at Knowsley Road on Sunday, Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, would happily settle for an earlier conclusion. No side has had it harder than St Helens.

whose year-round season, in the centenary championship, Regal Trophy final, Challenge Cup and the first summer Super League, is taking its toll in fatigue and injuries.

Strength in depth was Wigan's secret and St Helens, seemingly, have realised its importance. Hayes, Hunte, Sullivan and Martyn, who have all had severely interrupted seasons, were woven seamlessly into the pattern in Paris. Haigh filled in for Newlove at centre with youthful authority, while the campaign stalwarts, Goulding, Cunningham, Hammond and

Perelini, made their familiar, stout-hearted contributions.

Importantly, there is the personnel to see St Helens home, plus the will. McRae has had his critics about the defence being as vulnerable as it was before he arrived last January, but the Australian has added a mental toughness. Luck, inevitably, has played its part, but the team have got out of too many tight spots for them all to be down to good fortune.

The determination is embodied in Keiron Cunningham, even though the teenage hooker has requested a trans-

fer in a row about his contract. "Obviously, we want to keep him, but the good thing about Keiron is he came to me and said 'regardless of what you might hear and read you've got 100 per cent commitment from me'," McRae said.

Cunningham is a certainty for the Great Britain squad, announced tomorrow, as, indeed, are probably half the St Helens side for the autumn visit to Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand, although quite what physical state they will be in by the end of the Premiership competition in another month is a different matter.

In a game of spot-the-Parisian among a 4,000 crowd, the revelry was somewhat surreal. The good citizens of Paris had done their usual August flit south and left the Charley Stadium to an army of travelling supporters, who turned an occasion on foreign soil into something of a home fixture.

Sullivan was alert for his two tries and the others by Hunte, Perelini, Cunningham and Martyn were assured from close range. Bird and Borna exploited rare gaps in their half for Paris, but in the evening rain, St Helens supporters were singing long into the night, to the bemusement of a few token Frenchmen.

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They were grateful for Dixon missing his conversion of Milner's try from in front of the posts, before the result was put beyond doubt by Forster charging clear for a try and Sini adding his second.

Rogers scored the first of four tries after excellent work by Hampson, the man of the match. Lee dropped a goal and Sini's first try, as he broke three tackles and stretched his legs over 60 metres, put Salford in charge. They were grateful for Dixon missing his conversion of Milner's try from in front of the posts, before the result was put beyond doubt by Forster charging clear for a try and Sini adding his second.



Hunte outpaces the Paris Saint-Germain defence to score the first try for St Helens

Salford celebrate promotion by signing Platt

Salford Reds 21
Keighley Cougars 5

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SALFORD enjoyed the upset of the season when they ended Wigan's eight-year winning run in the Challenge Cup. Yesterday, the club savoured a more tangible reward — the first division championship, and promotion next season to the Super League.

Keighley gave the home side, now unbeaten in 12 outings, one of their more

competitive matches. It has been a procession since June, and following their victory in the meaningless Centenary championship last season, to place their hands on the trophy a second time in eight months and get their place among the elite was justice.

In preparation, Salford are already strengthening the side, with the acquisition from Auckland Warriors of Andy Platt. The former Great Britain prop is the first of several expected additions, although Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, already possesses a

strong mix of young and experienced talents. "To win the first division in successive seasons is a tremendous achievement, but now we've got to ensure we make an impression on the Super League," Gregory said.

The top flight will provide far more onerous tests, but there is no denying Salford's spirit. For Keighley and Hull, who also want to be "tracked" in like South Wales, the battle is on for second place, in the hope that it might qualify them for a second promotion spot.

Salford are there by dint of hard work on the field. They are unbeaten in 16 league matches at home since Keighley won at the Willows 11 months ago. The Cougars might have threatened a repeat, had they not found new ways of fluffing tries. Not that Salford were going to have their big day ruined.

Rogers scored the first of four tries after excellent work by Hampson, the man of the match. Lee dropped a goal and Sini's first try, as he broke three tackles and stretched his legs over 60 metres, put Salford in charge. They were grateful for Dixon missing his conversion of Milner's try from in front of the posts, before the result was put beyond doubt by Forster charging clear for a try and Sini adding his second.

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ROWING

Brownless adds another silver to world medal haul

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

ALISON BROWNLESS, 33, underlined her position as Britain's greatest ever oarswoman with another world medal at Strathclyde yesterday. She and Jane Hall, 22, the Redgrave and Pinsent of women's lightweight pairs, produced a two-minute last 500 metres to overtake Romania and take silver behind the United States, the world champions. Brownless, who now holds one gold and five silver world medals, said: "I thought about settling for bronze, but I just couldn't do it."

Hall, at stroke, who already has one gold and three silver world medals, wound up the rate to 42 at the finish but it was not enough to catch the American pair. Hall, distraught when the duo failed to qualify for the Olympics in a double scull, said: "At least we showed the Romanians we can play our game and win." She was referring to Camelia Macovicu, the Romanian bow, who won an Olympic gold medal in a double in Atlanta.

The Union Jacks were soon waving again as the women's lightweight four — Malindi Myers, Trish Corless, Robyn Morris and Jo Nitsch — almost exceeded the pair's example. Fourth at 1,000 metres, Nitsch, a veteran of the 1995 world medal-winning four, steadily pushed the rate up from 37 to 41. Her crew responded, passing first Germany, then the American world champions, and were less than a second behind China at the line.

But the successes of the women were not mirrored by the senior men yesterday. Near misses came for the men's lightweight eight and the men's coxed four. The four, a crew of club oarsmen from Nottingham County, were very unlucky. Against the form as the slowest qualifiers in the final, Steve Trappmore, the stroke, drove his crew along in third place until the last stroke when Russia snatched the bronze by 0.2sec.

It is 14 years since the Britain juniors had a blank medal sheet at a world championships and, by 5pm on Saturday, the audience was beginning to contemplate another unaccustomed white-wash. It took a Scotsman from Dumfries, Michael Martin, the rowing master at Abingdon School, to avoid the unthinkable. Martin is coach to the Britain junior eight, a composite crew with Martin's own Abingdon protégés, Ed Russell and Charles Park, in the stroke and coxwain seats. But Romania and Germany proved unbeatable.

"Our win was to get a third place," Martin said. "We decided to change our race plan and put everything into the first 1,000 metres." They were still fourth at that point, but behind the United States, but an inspired third quarter got them through to third and they held on for bronze. The

Results 23

eight's medal softened the despair felt by the junior men's coxed four, Britain's lead boat, that was involved in a blanket finish where two seconds covered the top five crews. The disappointed British finished fifth.

The women's junior four moved through from sixth to fourth in the second half of their final, but never threatened a medal.

Fisa, the international governing body, outlined proposals at a congress last Friday to cut the number of rowing events in the world championship programme. It accepted at its February meeting, six rowing events would disappear and one extra sculling event would be introduced, changing the balance of the programme to 12 sculling events and seven rowing events.

With most clubs in Britain based on rowing, the British view, backed by Germany, is that such changes should be more gradual. A meeting will be held with athletes and coaches in October to decide the British stance.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

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CRICKET: WARWICKSHIRE BATSMAN MAKES HIS MARK FOR ENGLAND IN HEADINGLEY TEST THAT MAY PROVE LOST OPPORTUNITY

Knight plunders fine hundred in Stewart's wake

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (fourth day of five): Pakistan, with all second-innings wickets standing, are 53 runs behind England

England spent the weekend batting with verve and character between the Yorkshire showers, amassing a total that many had considered beyond them against this passionate Pakistan attack. But there was no cause for celebration in the dressing-room last night, only for regret over what might have been.

By scoring 501 when the Headingley pitch was at its most placid, England simply emphasised the heavy cost of their inactivity on the opening day. If they had bowled even adequately on Thursday, when conditions were loaded in favour of their seam bowlers, this second Cornhill Test would have taken a very different course. England, almost certainly, would by now be on the point of winning it.

There is no escaping this conclusion and there may be no coming back from it. England's management was acutely aware that Headingley presented their best, perhaps only opportunity to level the series following the dramatic defeat at Lord's. The weather was kind to them, so too the test, and the game plan perished not for its design but its execution.

If, as now seems all but certain, this game ends drawn today, Pakistan hold all the good cards going into the final Test at The Oval. They lead 1-0 and the ground holds no

terror for them after their win there, early on the fourth day, in 1992. England have missed their chance and they should be berating themselves.

Positive thinking, however, will dictate that they focus on the good things to emerge from this game, of which there have been plenty. Yesterday, for instance, Nick Knight became the second England century-maker. Whereas Alec Stewart's hundred was his first in almost two years of Test cricket, Knight's was a maiden century made in only his fifth Test. It was also an extremely good one.

Stewart, on Saturday, was defying the theory that his England career was on borrowed time and doing it triumphantly well. The paradox was that his innings, the best he has played for England since making centuries in each innings of the win in Barbados in 1994, applied an additional pressure on Knight, who had been shuffled down to No 6 to accommodate Stewart's return to opening.

Aware that the six-batsmen policy will not necessarily survive at the Oval, Knight recognised his vulnerability. He needed a convincing innings and he played it, giving the selectors a potential problem of the right kind. No selectors worth their salt will complain at the need to choose between worthy candidates; it is when nobody demands selection that their job becomes thankless.

Another benefit England

will take from this game is the psychological one of knowing they can make substantial scores against these bowlers. It will be different in other conditions, of course, but since Wasim Akram aroused familiar fears with his rapid dispatch of Michael Atherton on Friday evening the Pakistan attack has looked almost ordinary.

Vaqar Younis, the scourge of England's batting at Lord's, struggled in vain for his rhythm on Saturday, finding that the sloping approaches of Headingley are not conducive to balance for a fast bowler who hurries to the crease like an Olympic sprinter. Yesterday, settling in at the Footfall Stand End, he took two for 17 in 11 overs but until then he had conceded five runs an over and rarely located the right line.

Although the Reader ball was changed twice at the Pakistanis' request, and despite Wasim persevering for an excessive 122 overs before resorting to a second new one, the reverse swing of fear and fable was conspicuously absent. Without it, and with no sharp turn for Mushtaq Ahmed, Pakistan's main weapons were disarmed.

Waqar's one wicket on Saturday was that of Nasser Hussain, deceived by a looping off-break. When Mushtaq perished, Graham Thorpe on his crease and Kabir took the propped catch at short-leg. England were still in danger of following on, but the rest of the day featured two refreshingly forthright partnerships, supervised by Stewart but showing John Crawley and Knight in an impressive light.

Crawley is utterly unfazed by Mushtaq. He believes he can pick his googly and he did so unerringly. He also played some fluent, near disdainful drives off the seam bowlers in making 53 of a stand worth 89. Crawley will be cross that he did not go on — he has been getting out around the fifty mark too often for peace of mind — but this was his most assertive batting for England.

Stewart, who had celebrated his century with an uninhibited abandon that told much of his recent torment, fell late in the day, driving a return catch to Mushtaq, but Knight took control of the remainder of the innings, scoring his runs at a good pace and punishing anything loose outside off stump with uncomplicated vigour.

He too, was not inconvenienced by leg spin and, having made runs against



Knight shows his elation at completing the century which secures his Test place

Mushtaq for Warwickshire, he struck him impudently over mid-wicket on more than one occasion. His best stroke, however, was reserved for the new ball and for Rehman — a cover-driven four struck on the up with complete certainty.

Other batsmen were finding some odd ways to get out. Russell dragged a rising ball

from Wasim into his stumps; as it was only the second delivery with the new ball, Wasim may have wished he had taken it sooner. Lewis was then bowled between his legs by Mushtaq before Knight square-cut for four to reach his century in a little under four hours.

Dominic Cork, making some overdue runs, carried

the total past 500, something England have not achieved at Headingley for 29 years, but by now the light was grim and it was clear Pakistan would not begin their second innings.

Soon, more rain was sweeping down, eliminating the final two hours of play and leaving England more time to rue a game that got away.

Wasim's happy band strikes the right note

The Pakistanis have recruited an unlikely ally on this latest tour of England: Dale Carnegie. Wasim Akram has led such a contented group of players that they appear to have heeded the American author's famous advice on how to win friends and influence people. Winning helps, of course, but the atmosphere on the field has been healthy and happy, with wickets and runs punctuated by smiles and laughter.

The last tour, four years ago, was fraught with misunderstandings, not to mention "incidents". The "lowlight" of that acrimonious series was the bust-up at Old Trafford when that notable sportsman, Mr J. Mian, failed to keep his players in check after Asif Javed remonstrated about a trivial point of order with Roy Palmer, the umpire.

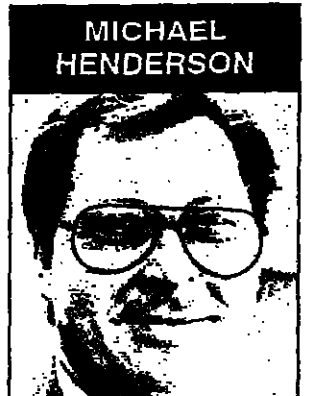
Indeed, far from restraining them, Mian egged them on like a reckless schoolboy, who likes to goad the teacher but prefers other children to have their collars felt. It worked, too. In a feeble response to this unruly behaviour, Conrad Hunte, the International Cricket Council match referee, initiated Pontus Pilate, telling the captains they were responsible for what their players got up to.

How different it all is this summer. The relationship between Wasim and Michael Atherton has filtered down to the ranks, so there has not been any unpleasantness on the field — as opposed to off it, where those on the western terrace have lived down to their reputation. Even David Attenborough would think twice before venturing into that mephitic jungle.

When Nick Knight left the field yesterday, after completing his first Test century, nobody applauded much more vigorously than little Mushtaq Ahmed, the man whose catch ended his innings. "Mushtaq" is having a whale of a time this summer, bowling splendidly and sharing a joke with anybody who wants to join in. Those smiles are a bracing antidote to the snarls and fisticuffs that Headingley witnessed yet again on Saturday afternoon.

Wasim can take much of the credit for the transformation of attitudes. His contribution may be compared with that of his mentor and fellow Lahori, whose name quite escapes me, and ultimately it might be more telling because he does not regard the team as his personal fiefdom.

The other chap (does anybody know whatever became of him?) is nothing if not self-important, and sounds increasingly pompous in his public statements. Wasim, who is more tolerant of less gifted players, does not see the point in brushing up his halo, and he has had much the more difficult job.



At Headingley

who is more tolerant of less gifted players, does not see the point in brushing up his halo, and he has had much the more difficult job.

Captains of Pakistan, like Italian prime ministers and Newcastle centre forwards, are never around for long before another one comes along. Wasim found that out soon after he succeeded thingummyjig in 1992. Within a 12-month he was unseated by a players' revolt and he got the job back only last winter, for the tour of Australia and New Zealand, after the selectors had run through the card.

Before the first Test in Brisbane, which Pakistan lost inside four days, Wasim stated unequivocally: "My main mission is to restore our reputation." By the end of that series he had helped to do that from a cricketing point of view. Pakistan won the Sydney Test in fine style and, although they came unstuck during the World Cup, they have begun anew in England.

From the start of this tour, their players were smiling and taking time to talk to people. It may be that, having suffered the outrageous calamities of their fellow countrymen after losing to India in the World Cup quarter-final, they realise that cricket, however important, is not everything.

So the manner of this series, established at Lord's, has continued satisfactorily at Headingley, although the big ball debate, frankly, has become tiresome. Predictably there were some ribald comments aimed at the Pakistanis on Saturday, when the ball apparently lost its shape, and the most ribald of the lot came from a former player who should know better. F.S. Trueman thought the ground was half-empty on the first day because there are "no personalities" any more. Perhaps it is just as well.

HEADINGLEY SCOREBOARD

England won toss

PAKISTAN First Innings: 448 (Ijaz Ahmed 141, Moin Khan 105, Salim Malik 55, Asif Mujtaba 51, D G Cork 5 for 113).

ENGLAND First Innings

*M A Atherton c Moin b Wasim — 12

A J Stewart c and b Mushtaq — 170

(438min, 315 balls, 24 fours)

N Hussain c and b Wasim — 48

(101min, 85 balls, 5 fours)

G P Thorpe c Mushtaq b Mushtaq — 16

(82min, 54 balls, 2 fours)

J P Crawley c Moin b Rehman — 53

(134min, 115 balls, 5 fours)

N V Knight c Mushtaq b Wasim — 113

(258min, 175 balls, 18 fours)

R C Russell b Wasim — 9

(73min, 49 balls, 1 four)

C C Lewis b Mushtaq — 9

(57min, 41 balls)

D G Cork c Mushtaq b Wasim — 26

(86min, 71 balls, 18 fours)

A R Caddick b Wasim — 4

(8min, 5 balls, 1 four)

A O Mullally not out — 9

(45min, 23 balls, 1 six)

Extras (lb 7, fb 23, nb 2) — 32

Total (156.5 overs, 855min) — 501

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14 (Stewart 2), 2-121 (Crawley 53), 3-169 (Stewart 53), 4-257 (Stewart 170), 5-365 (Knight 43), 6-402 (Knight 70), 7-441 (Knight 96), 8-465 (Cork 7), 9-471 (Cork 9).

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 39.5-10-106-3 (nb 1, 1 ex, 10 fours; 7-6-22-1, 2-2-0, 7-5-10, 6-3-20-0, 11-2-26-1, 1-5-0-8-1); Waqar Younis 32-7-127-3 (nb 1, 17 fours, 1-0-11-0, 3-0-26-0, 6-1-21-1, 4-0-16-0, 3-1-16-0, 11-3-27-0, 5-2-10-2); Asif Mujtaba 22-1-20-1 (nb 4; 12 overs, 3-0-15-0, 3-0-5-0, 7-0-18-0, 6-1-31-1, 3-0-21-0); Mushtaq Ahmed 55-17-142-9 (10 fours, 8-2-22-0, 16-7-32-1, 1-0-4-0, 5-3-11-0, 2-0-15-0, 9-2-30-1, 14-3-28-1); Asif Mujtaba 7-5-6-0 (11 min, one over).

SCORING NOTES: Third day (start delayed 60min) Lunch: 145-2 (40 overs, 166min, Stewart 72, Thorpe 9). Tea: 243-3 (78 overs, 315min, Stewart 113, Crawley 49). Close: final light ended play 5 overs prematurely at 6:53pm — 373-5 (110 overs, 458min, Knight 53, Russell 9). Fourth day (start delayed 104min) Lunch: 378-5 (115 overs, 478min, Knight 53, Russell 2). Tea: 473-5 (147 overs, 617min, Cork 26, Mullally 9). Second new ball: 402-5 (122.4 overs) at 2:13pm.

UMPIRES: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D R Shepherd (Third Umpire: R Uffin).

Match referee: P L van der Merwe.

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Lord's) Pakistan won by 164 runs. Test to come: Third (The Oval) August 22 to 28.

Compiled by Bill Frindall

Illingworth era seems set for bitter ending

BY ALAN LEE



Illingworth: private joke

WHEN Raymond Illingworth clambered on to a chair on the players' balcony yesterday and acclaimed Nick Knight's century with the fervour of a fan on the western terrace, it was a rare shaft of humour from a man who has recently worn little but his grumpiest expression.

The faintly ludicrous sight of the chairman of selectors with his arms aloft was his private joke, directed at the Sunday tabloids that mischievously drew attention to television pictures apparently showing him less than ecstatic when Alec Stewart, with whom he had what may be politely called a misunderstanding in the spring,

reached 100 on Saturday. Illingworth said the pictures, and the reports, misrepresented him, and that he had already acknowledged the century. But at least he was able to chuckle about it, and react accordingly. There have been other areas of the game this summer in which he feels he has been misrepresented, or not represented at all, and he does not feel remotely amused by them.

The curmudgeonly side of Illingworth has been given full rein this summer. His countenance has been constantly clouded by the ongoing saga of the disciplinary case brought against him by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) and the consequent fine and he refuses to accept as just. It

has influenced his every act, infiltrated his every conversation.

On Saturday he learnt that his appeal will be heard by the Cricket Council on Tuesday September 3, which means he will make two valedictory appearances at Lord's in a week. Six days after the appeal, he will meet with his fellow selectors to choose the winter tour parties, his final duty before standing down as chairman with what he says will be "great relief".

"There are things that have gone on this summer that I just don't agree with," he said, obliquely. "I haven't enjoyed the last few months and the way I feel now I shall be glad to get away from the game and spend some time at my winter

home in Spain." It is a shame to hear him speak this way and a thousand shames that his lifetime in cricket is evidently about to end on a bitter note. The England team needs an upbeat chairman; his point, however, is that the chairman needs a united game and he feels the corridors of power have not exactly cheered their support for him.

Although Illingworth has only grudgingly accommodated a shift of emphasis, and a change of generations, under the new coach, David Lloyd, his darker moods have little to do with those inside the England dressing-room. His complaints, I understand, relate squarely to the offices of the TCCB.

He considers he was not properly consulted over the Actfield report into the workings of the national team and, remarkably, he had not even seen a copy of it until last Wednesday, a week after its publication. "And there have been other things that I've found out about third-hand," he said, mysteriously. Illingworth took this up with Alan Smith, chief executive of the Board, at Lord's a fortnight ago. He has, he said, made his views plain, which, as all who have met him will be aware, will have left no room for ambiguity. It is this frankness that will be missed when he heads for Spain. Old grump or not, nobody need climb on a chair to applaud his going.

Cork and company can learn from past masters

England's bowling is so patterned at the moment, and so deficient, that it has been a great encouragement to see them batting well and on the whole, forcefully in the second Test match against Pakistan. Only by doing so can they possibly hope to prosper, other than on pitches that are inferior enough to compensate for the limitations of their attack.

All sides are vulnerable, however well they normally bat, after a long and unrelenting stint in the field. The initiative is against them, so that the time came yesterday when England might have been better served by a slightly more adventurous approach. There was much to be said for getting Pakistan in again, sooner rather than later. But to total 501 with only 28 of

them coming from Atherton and Thorpe still augured well. Stewart is fully restored, and we have a new, young left-handed century-maker, and that is excellent news.

There had been much less on the first two days of the match to raise our spirits. I am not going to say that with a spinner in their side England would have bowled Pakistan out in their first innings any less expensively than they did. I very much doubt whether they would. Their best

spinner, who is generally considered to be Tufnell, seems anyway to be *persona non grata*, a state of affairs that does not one any credit. But the tedium of a one-paced attack is, of itself, subversive, and even on a green pitch, which this one at Headingley never has been, three seamers

John Woodcock laments the failure of England's seamers to bowl a full length

should be sufficient — certainly three proper seamers.

Here, perhaps, is the nub — for England no longer possess the array of probably accurate medium-pacers who were traditionally the envy of other countries. That maybe a little unkind to Caddick, who could well have got among the Pakistanis had the luck been with him last Thursday morning; but there is precious little similarity between the way Cork and Lewis bowl today and the way Alec Bedser and the other great users of the seam used to do.

To start with, it has become unfashionable to pitch the ball up. The emphasis today is on trying to make the batsmen flinch: on digging the ball in. This is the main reason why more and more bowlers are

breaking down; from their formative years they over-strain themselves trying to get the ball to fly. Chris Lewis is no more a seamer in the classical mould than the Walrus and the Carpenter.

If England's attack at Headingley had consisted, let us say, of Bedser, Derek Shackleton, Trevor Bailey and Brian Statham, Pakistan's batsmen would have been brought constantly onto the front foot last Thursday morning, into that area where lateral movement is least welcome and most remunerative. Those bowlers would have known how best to exploit the conditions, not least because all their days were spent bowling to get sides out, rather than concentrating on containment.

I read last week of how the England Under-15 side had "crushed" their Canadian counterparts in the Lombard World Challenge. Closer inspection revealed that in reply to England's 344 for five Canada had made 173 for five. In the days of England's glory that was a draw; now it is hailed as a triumph, although all it is is an exercise in attrition, lifted, no doubt, by some likely batting and agile fielding, the sort of fielding, that is, that nearly took Cork out of the present Test match almost before it had started, but which has become an essential, or at any rate a compulsory part of the modern game.

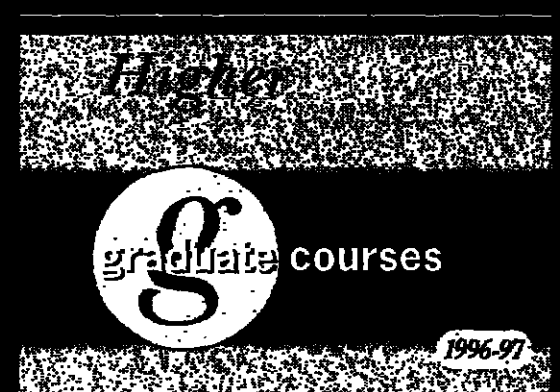
Other than in a tight finish, the sight of his leading bowler crashing into a boundary wall even before he had bowled an over would have had an old-

time captain saying: "Steady on, you're not at Twickenham now. Don't do that again." Statham, wonderfully athletic and contortionally double-jointed, never threw himself at anything in his life; but what would we give for him now? If this sounds a rather grudging observation after two of England's much better days, it is only because it is so vital that our young cricketers should not be deceived into thinking that sliding tackles and draws

that are called victories are more important than bowling sides out. Only when we get back to making that priority can England's success be more than flimsy. It is absolutely fundamental — no less than the need to take the covers off the pitches as a means to the same end.

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PITMAN PUBLISHING

CRICKET

Excitement of race for title cannot conceal mediocrity

This county championship race has been distinguished by quantity rather than quality and it is growing more confusing by the week. Seven points will cover the top five teams this evening if Derbyshire win at Hove and Leicestershire's frustrations at Swansea continue.

Three-day wins for Essex and Kent on Saturday ensured that Surrey, who won on Friday, would not slip the field. Leicestershire will return to the top if they beat Glamorgan but they missed the main chance by permitting a remarkable recovery in which the doughty Tony Cottee scored 203 and the last four wickets added 300.

The best of this round of matches, however, is at Hove, where Sussex have engineered an improbable winning position from what threatened to be an embarrassing Martin Speight's century, followed by five wickets for Vastbert Drakes, created a fourth-innings target of 276 against Derbyshire and they resume this morning on 91 for two.

Victory would retain the prospect of Sussex winning the championship which, with their potent and varied bowling attack, is perhaps not as absurd as it seems. Nothing, however, better illustrates the contrary nature of a season that began, for Sussex, with an innings defeat by Warwickshire and the plain possibility that they were heading back where they languished at this stage last season — rock bottom.

Early August saw Sussex at their 1995 nadir. Five consecutive championship games were lost and the coach, Norman Gifford, resigned in despair, subsequently settling for taking charge of Durham, whose awfulness is at least more predictable. Sussex's inconsistency remains an exasperation to their supporters and if only their batting was not so brittle they could be genuine contenders.



Speight: century-maker



Championship Commentary

The bowlers who have carried them up the table, however, may not be together much longer. Ed Ciddins faces a Test and County Cricket Board discipline committee on drugs charges a week today and, whatever its outcome, club and maverick fast bowler seem likely to part company. There is also a persistent rumour that Ian Salisbury has itchy feet; a move to Surrey would be a pity. Salisbury's loss would be a blow. Salisbury's loss would be a blow.

If Sussex do win today they will become only the second side to beat Derbyshire since the opening week of the season. The first was Northamptonshire, for whom this remains a solitary success in what has been a bewilderingly poor summer.

The comparisons continue. While Sussex were bottom of the table this time last year, Northamptonshire were top, apparently in sight of their first title. Warwickshire deprived them but they still secured a top-five finish for the fourth successive year. This season their championship form has been dire and they would be in some danger of the wooden spoon were it not for the comforting cushion provided by Durham, whose attack, led by the admirable



Johnson: under pressure

Simon Brown, has astonishingly gleaned more bowling bonus points than any other county. They just do not bat well enough to win, though, and the familiar second-innings decline is in prospect again at Edgbaston today, when they resume on 24 for two in pursuit of a distant 412.

The only remaining question about Durham is whether they will complete the season without a win. It seems inevitable they will finish bottom for the third time in their five-year existence, which offers a measure of reprieve to a club that has slipped from nightmarish heights into serious decline, Nottinghamshire.

Middlesex, riven by injuries, have not threatened a title challenge this year but they were still good enough to flatten Nottinghamshire by an innings on Saturday, with a welcome return to form for one of their recent walking wounded, Richard Johnson. For his namesake, Paul, it was one more dismal day in what has been a chastening first season as Nottinghamshire's captain.

He was heckled and booed by what passed for a crowd at Trent Bridge on Saturday after his fourth-ball nought had extended his wretched batting form — he has a mere 99 runs from eight innings. Under at least equal pressure is the club coach, Alan Ormrod, and, while the story came as a mystery to some parties, Graham Gooch has already been linked with his job.

Perhaps it is simply that Nottinghamshire have their priorities wrong. Certainly, they gave out depressing signals with the close-season signings of Ashley Metcalfe and Chris Tolley, respectively aged 32 and 28 and considered dispensable by their previous counties.

Would it not have been better and braver to encourage the young talent within the club, players such as Matthew Downman and Usman Afzaal, who have languished too long in the second-team?

Is this not the worst failing of English cricket, the instinct to seek the security of those who have achieved a certain level — if a mediocre one — rather than to invest in youth?

Almost certainly, it is a reason for the traffic jam at the top of this year's championship, where standards are too uniformly ordinary. It should also caution us against wasting too much sympathy on those at the bottom.

Revitalised Wells taps his hidden depths

Ivo Tennant meets a man making the most of a new lease of life at the age of 31

There is a view within the English game, held by Sir Colin Cowdrey among others, that a batsman does not reach maturity until the age of 30. As well as those blessed with lavish gifts, he had in mind the artisan, the type of professional who comes to the fore when little-known beyond his county's boundaries. For example, a cricketer such as Vince Wells.

Few could have matured so rapidly upon reaching this age as Wells. Here was an all-rounder who could bat anywhere, bowl niggardly seam-up and keep wicket and yet who found he had no future with Kent, the county of his birth. After four seasons on their staff, he had not convinced them that he possessed a talent to master these three differing skills. So, in 1992, he joined Leicestershire, who were taking on any number of discarded cricketers.

At Grace Road, there was no crowd, no cricketing week, no sense of history. Even the wheelbarrow had a hole in it. Wells appeared a functional cricketer in functional surroundings. But there was Jack Birkenshaw, one of the shrewdest of judges of a cricketer. The Leicestershire manager had seen that this unassuming 26-year-old, as he then was, had the makings of becoming more than just a useful bits-and-pieces performer who could stand in for the senior players when they were injured.

"I could tell that Vince was a lovely timer of the ball who could play all round the wicket," Birkenshaw said. "His unfortunate trait was that he was too nice to grumble when he was left out of the team. He had probably been used by this sometimes happens to the people who are the least trouble. He did not know where he was going in, whether he was bowling or whether



Wells on his way to a career-best 204 against Northamptonshire earlier this month

he was keeping wicket. Now, he suddenly realises that he can bat. He can play the short ball. If he is a late developer, it is only because his opportunities have come later in life."

How he has taken them. Last season he made 645 runs and took 19 wickets in the championship — bits-and-

pieces stuff. This year, given the chance to open owing to Nigel Briens's injury and subsequent retirement, he has come up with one large innings after another. In three consecutive matches, one of them in the NatWest Trophy, he made 200, 201 and 197. This was followed by 204, his

career-best score, against Northamptonshire. He coped against the new ball through a confidence he had not known before. "Opening the innings has given me a more responsible outlook. My mental approach is different. I have tightened up my technique and become

a better player off the back foot," he said. "I've looked to play more straight and off my legs more — it all comes from growing in confidence."

James Whitaker, my captain, has been a great help. He talked to me last winter about batting higher in the order and encouraged me to bat in the half-hour sessions at a time. I believe I can continue to improve.

"But, if Nigel had not been injured, I would have gone in no higher than five or six. Although I was attached to Leyton Orient when a school-boy centre forward, I have always desperately wanted to play county cricket — there are not too many jobs where you can wake up and look forward to going in to work."

"At Kent I felt I was good enough and did well in the second XI. The trouble was

"I shall be very disappointed if he does not get on England's A tour this winter"

that there were all-rounders such as Richard Ellison, Chris Penn and Eldine Baptiste ahead of me and, although I made my debut as a wicket-keeper, even my chances of doing that were limited."

Wells had left Dartford before. For six years in his childhood, his parents, who were hairdressers, went to work in New Zealand. His only regret is that, on account of opening, he has not bowled as often as he did. His captain likes to conserve his energy.

But it has been worth it. Wells's career batting average before this year was 28.76. His average for this season has risen to over 40. "Vince will do anything you ask of him. He is a good lad and I try to sign nice people," Birkenshaw said. "He was 31 last week but I shall be very disappointed if he does not get on England's A tour this winter because he is a better player than some of the selectors seem keen on."

Another Gibbs prepares to enter the Test match arena

Simon Wilde reports on Herschelle Gibbs, the South Africa A team batsman, who is likely to return to torment England

public schools in Cape Town. He was attracting an unusual amount of interest, not only because of his achievements on the sports field but also because he was — is — a Cape Coloured.

He was selected to play cricket for Western Province and, at the age of 16, became the youngest player in the team's history. A great future was forecast for him. The trouble started. "The new South Africa has been quite confusing for young men like Herschelle," Duncan Fletcher, the A team coach, said. "There are certain people wanting them to do well for political reasons. He was denied the space he needed to grow."

Many talented sportsmen plunge into such troughs, where they experience the thing no one had anticipated for them: failure. In Gibbs's case this lasted a long time, so

long that many gave up on him. For four years, he languished in the Province's B team, showing nothing like his potential.

"I was told by others that I was wasting my time," Fletcher, who also works with Western Province, said. "And even



Gibbs: great future

in the middle of last year Herschelle did not appear to have the right temperament. But I've always been a great fan of his and we have a good relationship. So last season I used him as an opener in a domestic one-day competition and told him to play his shots. He scored a lot of runs."

Gibbs does not think his time in the wilderness was wasted. "I was not ready when I was first chosen for [Western] Province and during those four years I was not mentally prepared either," he said. "I like to score freely and there simply were not as many loose balls around as I was used to. But the experience will help me in the long run. I have played against more experienced men than others of my age."

He has shown his maturity this summer, although his colleagues have hardly acted

as callow youths themselves. They have collectively played with a steely-edged competitiveness that has raised some eyebrows. Gibbs has scored 839 runs in 11 first-class innings, with highest scores of 183 against MCC and 178 against Surrey, an innings that contained eight sixes. Though small in build, he is strong and hits the ball so hard that when Gregor Kennis caught him at cover in the Surrey match he was forced off the field with a severely bruised hand.

Gibbs is pleased with his form on the tour, which culminates later this week in a four-day fixture against a TCCB XI at Chester-le-Street, but he is conscious that few opposing sides have put out their strongest attacks. He would like to come back to play county cricket next year, but already has a prior engagement: Ali Bacher, the managing director of the South African Cricket Board, has put his name down for the country's main cricket academy in Johannesburg.

Fletcher finds it hard to pick out one innings from many exceptional ones played by Gibbs in recent weeks, but he is now sure about one thing: "I will be absolutely amazed if Herschelle does not play Test cricket, and play it very soon."

SATURDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannia Assurance county championship

Glamorgan v Leicestershire

SWANSEA (third day of four): Leicestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand and 234 runs ahead of Glamorgan.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings: 506 (B F Smith 190, P V Simmons 82, P A Cully 4 for 29).

Second Innings: J J Wells c sub b Croft 36, C J Gidkins c sub b Thomas 21, G J Gidkins c sub b Thomas 21, B F Smith not out 27, A Cully not out 12, Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 2) 12, Total (117.3 overs) 141.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

BOWLING: Glamorgan: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

Bonus points: Glamorgan 6, Leicestershire 8.

Umpires: A A Jones and R A White.

Hamshire v Gloucestershire

SOUTHAMPTON (third day of four): Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand and 232 runs to lead.

GLoucestershire: First Innings: 186 (M Hatch 55, C A Walsh 5 for 34).

Second Innings: J J Wells c sub b Croft 36, C J Gidkins c sub b Thomas 21, G J Gidkins c sub b Thomas 21, B F Smith not out 27, A Cully not out 12, Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 2) 12, Total (117.3 overs) 141.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

BOWLING: Gloucestershire: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 6, Hamshire 8.

Umpires: J D Bond and G Sharp.

Nottinghamshire v Middlesex

TRENT BRIDGE (third day of four): Middlesex with seven second-innings wickets in hand and 234 runs ahead of Nottinghamshire.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings: 257 (J A Marshall 111, C F Turner 4 for 41).

Second Innings: P R Pollock c sub b Croft 36, C J Gidkins c sub b Thomas 21, G J Gidkins c sub b Thomas 21, B F Smith not out 27, A Cully not out 12, Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 2) 12, Total (117.3 overs) 141.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

BOWLING: Middlesex: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 6, Middlesex 8.

Umpires: J D Bond and G Sharp.

Northamptonshire v Kent

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Kent with seven second-innings wickets in hand and 234 runs ahead of Northamptonshire.

KENT: First Innings: 216 (S C Wells 78).

Second Innings: J J Wells c sub b Croft 36, C J Gidkins c sub b Thomas 21, G J Gidkins c sub b Thomas 21, B F Smith not out 27, A Cully not out 12, Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 2) 12, Total (117.3 overs) 141.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

BOWLING: Kent: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

Bonus points: Kent 6, Northamptonshire 8.

Umpires: J D Bond and G Sharp.

Sussex v Derbyshire

HOVE (third day of four): Sussex with seven second-innings wickets in hand and 234 runs ahead of Derbyshire.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings: 300 (J A Marshall 111, C F Turner 4 for 41).

Second Innings: P R Pollock c sub b Croft 36, C J Gidkins c sub b Thomas 21, G J Gidkins c sub b Thomas 21, B F Smith not out 27, A Cully not out 12, Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 2) 12, Total (117.3 overs) 141.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

BOWLING: Derbyshire: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

Bonus points: Sussex 6, Derbyshire 8.

Umpires: J D Bond and G Sharp.

Sussex v Derbyshire

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FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 25-151, 26-151, 27-151, 28-151, 29-151, 30-151, 31-151, 32-151, 33-151, 34-151, 35-151, 36-151, 37-151, 38-151, 39-151, 40-151, 41-151, 42-151, 43-151, 44-151, 45-151, 46-151, 47-151, 48-151, 49-151, 50-151.

BOWLING: Derbyshire: 1-14, 2-66, 3-99, 4-104, 5-117, 6-127, 7-138, 8-142, 9-148, 10-150, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151, 14-151, 15-151, 16-151, 17-151, 18-151, 19-151, 20-151, 21-151, 22-151, 23-151, 24-151, 2

FOOTBALL: SHEARER AND NEWCASTLE RECEIVE RUDE WAKE-UP CALL FROM RUTHLESS DOUBLE-WINNERS

Shortage of charity as Cantona calls tune

FOOTBALL, being a sound-ing brass and a tinkling cymbal, traditionally lacks charity. It is a game in which hardness is dominant: hardness in physical confrontation, hardness of purpose, hardness in execution. That is why, when the season opens as ever with a curtain-raiser called the Charity Shield, writers and headline makers turn on the word "charity" with such ironical delight.

Charity these days means money. Originally, it meant a disinterested love. What does charity mean in football? Are we talking about money? Or about disinterested love?

Alan Shearer, the most expensive footballer on the planet, stepped out for his first big occasion with his new club, Newcastle United, as they took on Manchester United in the Charity Shield yesterday, each club seeking to prove a point before the true hardness of League competition begins for real next weekend.

Shearer cost £15 million. And, after his series of excellent performances for England in the European championship, it seems that the nation took this monstrous sum of money in its stride.

No one, it seems, has seriously asked how anyone can be worth £15 million. But Newcastle, bankrolled by the love and money of Sir John Hall, and managed by the forever up-and-at-ten Kevin Keegan have taken yet another wild step into the footballing unknown.

It is, in fact, the third centre forward they have bought together, the others being Les Ferdinand, asked to surrender his treasured No 9 shirt, and Faustino Asprilla, the bewildering or beguiling Colombian, who was relegated to the substitutes' bench.

Now this is an awful lot of centre forwards and it might strike a normal observer of footballing matters that, if the crucial result of your previous season was a 4-3 defeat (by Liverpool, if you remember), then bolstering the attack is not the most obvious priority.

Newcastle led all the way through last season, but fell away in the final furlong. That was when Manchester United ground out a series of 1-0 victories, most of them followed by a line in smaller print that read "Cantona 70min". Not making the small print, but equally important, was a string of saves, catches and interventions from the

SIMON BARNES



At the Charity Shield

rusty Denmark goalkeeper, Peter Schemmel.

So what did Keegan do? Same goalie, same defence, and 15 million quid's worth of striking talent. So we lost the crucial match 4-3; that doesn't mean we should have won it 3-2, does it? No, we should have won it 5-4, right? Right!

Keegan, president of the campaign for real scorelines, has chosen glory beyond sense, or, at least, beyond logic. Not for him the football of fear, he is not a manager who lives his life in perpetual terror of the vote of confidence, not a manager who never dares to buy fitted carpets.

Rich enough from his playing days, he is part of the new breed of managers who can afford to take football on their own terms — rather than that of any chairman. And, Keegan being Keegan, the terms he has chosen are all to do with glory. "Doing things in style, not waiting for the other lot to die of boredom," as Danny Blanchflower remarked.

Some chairmen might lose patience with this, but clearly not Sir John. He, too, is rich enough, grand-spirited enough, to prefer glory to the sordid accountancy of the won/lost column. And, if this is not disinterested love, I don't know what is.

If ever there was a day to make the point of style over accountancy, this was it. *Le style c'est l'homme*, and the homme, as ever, was a certain Frenchman with a turned-up collar. Name: Eric Cantona. Price: one fifteenth of Shearer's. Value: incalculable. The heart and soul of the club.

He scored the first goal when the Newcastle defence gave him yards of space — if only they had asked me, I would have told them he was



Giggs helps Butt to celebrate his goal in the Charity Shield victory for Manchester United at Wembley yesterday

quite good — and made the second with a back-kick insolent even by his own elevated standards.

Oh, and he should have been sent off for flinging Albert to the ground; but then no one ever claimed that the heart and soul of Manchester United were entirely made up

of disinterested love. Or of the lust for mere glory, for that matter.

As for Shearer, if he had been paid a million quid a touch for yesterday's show, we would get a fair bit of change from his price. What style Newcastle had come from Asprilla, a substitute. He is

even more skilful than Cantona and with a still more elusive and turbulent nature. Could he do for Newcastle what Cantona did and does for Manchester United? Perhaps that will remain one of football's eternal unanswerables.

Well, one pre-season match

is not a championship campaign. Perhaps, for Shearer and Newcastle, this is the wake-up call. Yesterday was simply dreadful. I am reminded of the returning prodigal in Monty Python: "There's more to life and truth and beauty, father. There's dirt, and grime, and work."

Sharpe seeks his England place at Leeds

BY PETER BALL AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

HOWARD WILKINSON, the Leeds United manager, has had a frustrating summer in the transfer market, but his efforts received some reward yesterday. Manchester United have accepted his £4 million offer for their England international winger, Lee Sharpe. After meeting Wilkinson at the weekend, and having the first part of his medical yesterday, Sharpe is expected to finalise the signing this afternoon.

The transfer takes Wilkinson's spending to around £8 million so far since Leeds's new owners presented him with a reported £12 million to spend on new players, with Lee Bowyer, Nigel Martyn and now Sharpe arriving at Elland Road. Ian Rush also joined on a free transfer.

Since the departure of Gary Speed to Everton, someone to play wide on the left was a priority, and Sharpe undoubtedly fits the bill. His past three seasons have been frustrating, littered with injury and inconsistency, but, if he can keep fit and respond to a new challenge, he is young enough to recapture the pace and ability to cross on the run that brought him eight England caps under Graham Taylor.

Sharpe joined Manchester United as a 16-year-old from Torquay for £185,000 and made an immediate impression. But, with the spate of recent signings at Old Trafford, his departure does not come as a surprise. He was linked with Liverpool earlier in the summer.

"I was watching Euro 96 when I realised I needed first-team football to get back my place in the England team," Sharpe said. "I don't think I regret leaving United but, after eight years at Old Trafford, it is never easy. I am looking forward to my days at Leeds."

Terry Venables, the former England coach, is considering an offer to join Portsmouth, the Nationwide League first division club, as director of football. Venables, who guided England to the semi-finals of Euro 96 in June, will hold further discussions with Martin Gregory, the Portsmouth managing director, to finalise the terms of the job this week.

"Portsmouth is a club that has had a lot of support and it could be turned into a big club again," Venables said. "I have had more substantial offers from abroad but I want to stay in this country. I'm now free again and I would like to put my time to good use."

Venables has been linked with FC Porto, Napoli and the Turkey national team since he relinquished his role with England, with rundown Fratton Park appearing an unlikely stage on which to

reappear. The club has debts of £2.8 million, is losing £54,000 a week and narrowly avoided relegation to the second division last season.

Yet Venables has always had close links with the Gregory family — Martin's father, Jim, appointed him as manager of Queens Park Rangers in 1980 — and he was invited to watch Portsmouth's pre-season match against Bristol City on Saturday, which they won 1-0.

"Things are looking quite positive and, after I speak to Martin, I'm hoping it will go ahead," Venables said. "I just think the club is lacking direction. They have potentially good players and coaching staff and, with a little bit of help, they could do really well." Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, is likely to be retained, with Venables adopting an advisory role.

Don Howe, who assisted Venables throughout Euro 96 and has been involved with England for almost 20 years,



Sharpe: new challenge

may be relieved of his coaching duties for the 1998 World Cup qualifying campaign, which begins in Moldova on September 1. It was reported yesterday that Glenn Hoddle, the new England coach, will be asking Howe, 60, to concentrate on his job as interim technical director of the Football Association.

Howe was coaching at Chelsea three years ago when Hoddle became manager, but left swiftly after being offered only a scouting job. Hoddle has also reshaped his backroom staff since succeeding Venables, appointing John Gorman, his No 2 at Swindon Town, as his assistant.

Stuart Pearce, the Nottingham Forest captain, has reconsidered his decision to retire from international football, which he announced after England had been beaten by Germany in the European championship. Having since spoken with Hoddle, he has made himself available for the game against Moldova.

Disappointing Rangers sound alarm for honest Wilkins

Brian Glanville watches Wimbledon stroll past a team short of new ideas

Will Queens Park Rangers, so sadly relegated last season, bounce straight back up to the FA Carling Premiership? On Saturday's showing, it is debatable. Wimbledon, in the sunshine of Shepherds Bush, strolled past them 1-0 in a pre-season fixture and, afterwards, Ray Wilkins, the Rangers player-manager, did not mince his words.

Small, quick, bright, ironic and honest, Wilkins is a rare bird among managers, let alone player-managers. "We were inept," he said.

So, alas, they were. With typical generosity, Wilkins conceded that Wimbledon were "super" and that they had passed the ball well.

A less charitable assessment was that they were allowed to do the kind of things for which Wimbledon are not generally noted courtesy of a Rangers team that was pathetic in defence.

Wilkins tactfully said that he did not want to talk about "certain areas of the team" but he doubtless had plenty to say in the dressing-room to the defenders who left such enormous gaps and stood back early on to allow Wimbledon the winning goal. Robbie Earle was left quite alone to head in a Vinny Jones free kick from the left. They also serve who only stand and wait.

"Thank God it was a pre-season game," Wilkins said. The alarming thing was that most of this Rangers team was precisely that which was relegated last season, despite a number of impressive victories against the likes of Everton and West Ham United. Wimbledon should have had several more goals, and would have done had it not

been for the athletic bulk of Jürgen Sommer, Rangers's American goalkeeper.

Wilkins played in midfield for most of the game and, to the neutral eye, looked no worse than anybody else in a flourishing side.

"Nice of you to say so," he told a complimentary reporter. "I thought I was abysmal." Did he take himself off, he was asked.

"No, Frank Sibley, the assistant manager, took me off," he replied. "After today, I'll have to think about it. I have done a lot of hard work in pre-season and played a lot of games, and that was my worst performance. I'll sit there and take stock."

Wilkins is 39, Mark Hateley, who played with him at Glasgow Rangers, is 34. There was some surprise when Wilkins brought him down from Scotland last season. Once so mighty in the air,



Wilkins: typically generous

— how well I remember the soaring header that he scored in a derby game at San Siro against Inter — Hateley now seems scarcely more than a point of reference.

In one home game last season he missed a header from a few yards. Wilkins, ever understanding, explained that the ball had not come across as fast as might be expected. It sounded a little like the wrong kind of snow or leaves on the railway line.

On Saturday, Hateley did have a diving header of sorts in the second half, which went past a post. The crowd, such as it was, jeered him, as they had been doing for much of the game. "It's unfortunate but Mark's a professional," Wilkins said. One, alas, who has seen far better days.

When Steve Slade, the 20-year-old centre forward bought from Tottenham Hotspur, came on, together with a lofty Daniele Dichio, there was much more movement up front, yet Slade showed an excessive aggression not evident at Tottenham. A violent clash with Ben Thatcher, the new Wimbledon left back, could have got both of them sent off, rather than substituted.

Emollient again, Wilkins explained that, having turned out in the past couple of matches, and not being in the starting XI on Saturday, Slade wanted to show "he was up to it." "I did not think it was only one way," he added.

It wasn't. Thatcher's retaliation, after he had played a model game and even raised

dreams of England, was foolishly impulsive. That way expulsions lie.

Rangers have a new chairman forward, is expected to miss the start of the FA Carling Premiership season after being injured in an uncompromising pre-season match against Internazionale yesterday.

More than 20,000 supporters, at the Riverside Stadium for a testimonial match for Willie Maddren, saw Barnby sustain a calf injury after six minutes of the match, which finished 0-0.

Gianluca Vialli said that he is 40-50 per cent fit after making his home debut for Chelsea in Steve Clarke's benefit game against PSV Eindhoven, who won 3-2. However, the Italian forward added: "At Southampton next week I hope to be 100 per cent fit and you will see a different Chelsea."

The Southampton manager, Graeme Souness, has pulled out of a move for Uwe Rösler after being told by Alan Ball, the Manchester City manager, that he would have to pay £3.5 million for the German forward. Souness had hoped to sign Rösler for £2 million.

From next Monday *The Times* will publish a combined half-time and full-time grid which will include the pools value of the half-time scores. Littlewoods is running a new competition in which £250,000 can be won if punters obtain the maximum number of points available by correctly predicting half-times. The other significant change is the number of coupon matches which has been reduced from 58 to 49.

Barmby's start is delayed by injury

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Celtic show early signs of failing to last distance

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

I had been feared that the first afternoon of the new Bell's Scottish League premier division season would have about as much charm as the May Day parade in the former USSR when rocket launchers, tanks and other ingenious instruments of death trundled past the podium. On Saturday, the Old Firm were supposed to mount their own show of strength.

Instead, to the relief of those who like a little spontaneity with their sport, the two clubs malfunctioned. Rangers, with a 1-0 victory over Raith Rovers, suffered no harm, but the result did prove that they can be prevented from inflicting a routine rout, even when facing humble opposition on their own ground. Celtic came far closer to complete breakdown.

At Pittodrie, only an equaliser by Andreas Thom in the closing seconds allowed them to salvage a 2-2 draw with Aberdeen from a match in which they had led. It was one of those occasions where affluence seems only to buy a larger set of problems.

On his competitive debut, Alan Stubbs, the club's record signing at £3.5 million, was sent off. Having sauntered impressively through his duties, the central defender, with Celtic 1-0 ahead, sleepily failed to make an interception, so allowing Duncan Shearer, who came on as a substitute, to sneak in behind him.

Stubbs then had to attempt a tackle from behind and, seeming to catch man as well as ball, conceded a penalty in the 73rd minute. Mr Dallas, the referee, showed him the red card and Dean Windass scored from the spot. Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, detected injustice, believing

Celtic carelessly missed them, as if convinced that victory was unavoidable in a game they were controlling. Only van Hooijdonk was to score in the first-half, curling a 30-yard free kick into the top corner of the net.

Aitken rightly praised his team for their comeback, but doggedness should never have been allowed to reap such rewards. As, after the break, Aberdeen at last secured access to the other half of the pitch, the first few symptoms of queasiness were apparent in a Celtic side that suddenly realised how vulnerable they still were.

Aberdeen could have had a goal as early as the 54th minute, when Gordon Marshall fumbled a cross and only van Hooijdonk's block kept the shot by Windass out of the net. Such poorly-disguised agitation nourished the hope that strengthened Aberdeen.

Just as scientists may deduce life on Mars from a few marks on a piece of rock, so there are pundits who will try to determine the whole outcome of the championship from the first afternoon's action. Football, of course, is not amenable to such methods, but Celtic will realise that Saturday's leniency needs to be expunged from the team's personality if they are to win the premier division.

A draw at Pittodrie would often be regarded as gratifying, but at present Aberdeen, for whom Tzanko Tzvetanov, the Bulgarian, made a pleasing debut in midfield, are caught up in the process of reconstruction. When faced with such vulnerability, a Celtic team with aspirations towards the title ought to be vindictive.

ATHLETICS: HANSEN SETS TRIPLE JUMP RECORD AS BRITAIN'S OLYMPIANS FIND SPARSE GUARD OF HONOUR AT CRYSTAL PALACE

Atlanta braves make do with low-key home run



Christie: farewell

By Nick Szeczanik

HAVING heard that British Olympians had resorted to selling their kit in order to make ends meet in Atlanta, I was on the lookout for bargains outside Crystal Palace yesterday before the Performance Games. I rather fancied a Great Britain tracksuit. No go, unfortunately. Perhaps things were not as bad as we have been led to believe.

To hear people talk, one would imagine that Britain had won nothing at the Olympics. At least Britain's athletes secured some medals, while Terry Venables's football squad only managed the fair-play award in Euro 96; but then the Olympians did not have a catchy song. "Athletics is coming home" does not quite have the ring of that

other summer anthem of 1996. Nothing, it seems, succeeds like perceived success.

Expectations are also a factor, as Ashia Hansen, fourth in the Olympic triple jump, said after setting a United Kingdom record of 14.67 metres yesterday. "There was a lot of pressure out there in Atlanta, and I put a lot of pressure on myself," she said. "I wasn't expecting to jump as well as I did today. I've been ill for a couple of days with a sore throat, coming back to the English weather, but today I was able to relax. It was the performance I was looking for at the Olympics."

As the announcer said, part of the function of this invitation meeting was to welcome Britain's Olympians back from Atlanta. After complaints about the steam bath

climate, they were probably delighted to get back to cool, overcast and intermittently rainy south London. Like the weather, the attendance was patchy, although early forecasts of an embarrassingly small crowd were not borne out. Even so, the place was barely one-third full for

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the return of Black, Edwards, Lewis, Backley and friends.

"Coming back to a half-empty stadium is very depressing, and we all felt it, every one of us," Roger Black, a double silver medal-winner in Atlanta, said. "Is it because we didn't win any gold medals? I don't think so. British athletics should be

able to fill this stadium every time, but this was too close to the last grand prix, and probably under-promoted. It's saddest for Linford, on possibly his last appearance at Crystal Palace. Unless Dave Bessett makes him an offer that is, Christie signed off with a comfortable win in the 150 metres before saying: "I'll be back next year — sitting in the stand."

Like Black, Mark Richardson — also a member of the 4 x 400 metres silver medal-winning team, and the winner of the 300 metres yesterday — denied that popular reaction to Atlanta had been as negative as that in the media. "I've experienced mass hysteria, really," he said. "I didn't expect the reaction. You would have thought we'd won the gold."

Olympians from other countries

were also present. Vebjörn Rodal, of Norway, for example, the 800 metres gold medal-winner, won the men's 1,000 metres, and the former world javelin champion, Karen Forkel, of Germany, beat Tessa Sanderson into second place. Appearing to look towards the press box, Sanderson announced that reports of her retirement had been exaggerated. "I will be at the world championships next year. You don't just lie down and die at 40," she said, which will be a relief to many.

Tony Jarrett, with a little finger-waving as he won the 110 metres hurdles, was the closest the crowd saw to any of the triumphalism for which the Americans were criticised, although they had a lot to be triumphant about. Faint praise, on the other hand, may be as damaging

ing to British athletes' chances as high hopes. "John Ridgeon — still unbeaten by a British athlete in 1996," the announcer said, putting on the bravest face possible as Ridgeon faded from first over the final hurdle to a gallant third at the tape in the 400 metres hurdles.

The crowd had not been fooled, of course. Their cheers had died away with Ridgeon's chances of victory. And they know what they like. A devil-take-the-hindmost men's 3,000 metres featured, yes, a man dressed as the Devil, complete with pitchfork, whose job it was to remove the back marker at the end of each lap. The nut-tutting in the press box was in contrast to the enjoyment of the crowd. Serious business, athletics. Atlanta a national tragedy? Maybe not quite.

TRIATHLON

Late charge by Lessing takes race by storm

By David Powell

THE image of triathlon is of sunny days, bronzed bodies and golden beaches in Hawaii or on the Côte d'Azur. When the International Triathlon Grand Prix made its entry into Britain yesterday it rained so hard that the start was postponed twice.

The race was delayed when water reached Longleat that brighter weather was on the way but, as the music on the public address suggested, it was *Mission Impossible*. After 65 minutes, officials gave up waiting for the deluge to stop and the 20 invited triathletes dived into the lake next to Longleat House.

If it was a typically British wintry summer's day, there was at least a typical victory to enjoy. Simon Lessing, the long course and standard distance world champion, pulled away

£660,000 grand prix, which is in its inaugural year, has put the emphasis on explosive competition. Yesterday the Enduro format was used. This involved a 500-metre swim, 14-kilometre ride and three-kilometre run, repeating the dose without a break.

Lessing, third out of the water on the first lap, settled in the chasing group of riders for much of the second phase. However, by the end of the six-lap cycle course the two leading groups, comprising eight competitors, had closed together.

By the end of the second swim, the leading group was down to four, Lessing, Beven, Hamish Carter, from New Zealand, and Ben Wright, from Australia. They remained together through the ride but were broken up in the final transition when Carter, first out and barefoot, was followed swiftly by Lessing.

Each competitor had been introduced beforehand according to his sobriquet. Chris "The Professor" Hill, Brad "The Croc" Beven, Jimmy "The Cockroach" Riccitello. By the time it came to Greg Welch, water had got into the PA. "Greg — we call him Mickey Mouse. I'm sorry Mickey Mouse — Welch". Squelch.

Although there was nothing to choose between the four leaders after five of the six sections, Lessing, a renowned strong runner, always looked the most likely winner. The sting in the race had been removed the day before when Spencer Smith, his fellow Briton and winner of the opening grand prix in Koblenz, withdrew.

Smith fell down the stairs at his grandmother's home in Twickenham, hurting his ribs. After riding the bicycle course on Saturday, he decided he was not fit to compete. "This quality of field you have to be 100 per cent," Smith said. "I

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on the final three-kilometre run to take the overall grand-prix lead after two of the eight races in the series.

"The weather conditions made it very challenging," Lessing said. "You had to be careful not to slide out on the bike." Lessing and Brad Beven, the Australian who finished second, had to be especially careful. Two weeks hence they will be the main contestants in the standard distance world championship in Cleveland, Ohio.

Lessing said that his victory on the 10,000-acre Longleat estate was a job in Beven's jaw. Beven was runner-up when the Briton took the standard distance title in Cancun, Mexico, last November.

"Brad is going to be my main opposition in Cleveland and this gives me a little psychological advantage," Lessing said.

In contrast to championship racing, the \$1 million (about



Lessing shows the strain on his way to victory in the first International Grand Prix race to be held in Britain

am not willing to show myself up." It was to have been the only race between the two Britons, the world's leading triathletes, in Britain this year.

Smith, twice the standard distance world champion, will have an X-ray examination today to determine whether his ribs are cracked or, as he believes, only bruised. Like Lessing, this was to have been his last race before turning his attention to a world title although, in Smith's case, his eyes are not on Cleveland.

Lessing is not defending his long course title in Muncie, Indiana, next month, but Smith is determined to make sure that both championships remain in British hands. He will return tomorrow to his home in San Diego, having moved there three years ago for warm-weather training, to prepare for Muncie. He has resolved, whatever the diagnosis, to train through with the world championships in mind.

The South African-born Les-

ing banked \$25,000 for his victory, recording 1hr 19min 21sec. Beven, six seconds behind, took \$20,000 and Bright, who clocked 1:19:38, \$15,000 for third.

Rarely can a sports event with so much prize-money have had such little spectator support, fewer than 1,000 in attendance. The adverse weather and out-of-town venue proved an unappealing combination and next year the event is likely to move to Bath City centre.

TENNIS

Agassi and Chang to clash in final again

By Our Sports Staff

ANDRE AGASSI and Michael Chang will meet for the ATP Championship title in Mason, Ohio, for the second successive year after beating Thomas Muster and Thomas Enqvist, respectively, in the semi-finals.

Agassi, the defending champion and sixth seed, still on a high after winning the Olympic gold medal, dominated Muster, the second seed, throughout his 6-4, 6-1 victory.

"I think my motivation is really simple," Agassi said. "Muster is world No 2 and has been playing good tennis, so I wanted to go out there and prove I could win the match."

Muster admitted he had no answer to Agassi's onslaught.

Chang, third seed, reached his fourth successive final of this event, which he won in 1993 and 1994, with a 6-1, 2-6, 6-2, win over Enqvist, the tenth seed — his first victory over the Swede, who had won their three previous meetings.

"I don't think I served very well," Enqvist said. "I was trying to play aggressively and I must be on top of the

points all the time to beat Michael."

Agassi, the world No 7, has won ten of his 16 meetings with Chang.

Monica Seles and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, the leading seeds in the du Maurier Canadian Open in Montreal, had little trouble in coming through their respective semi-finals to book a meeting in the final.

Seles, who is the defending champion, top seed and joint world No 1, beat the unseeded Yayuk Basuki, of Indonesia, 6-0, 6-3, while Sánchez Vicario, the second seed, saw off the American, Kimberly Po, 6-0, 6-4.

The final will be the first clash between the pair since Seles returned to competition a year ago at this event after a 27-month absence.

Sánchez Vicario was reported as opposing the special ranking accorded to Seles after her stabbing in Hamburg in April 1993. But after beating the unseeded Po, the Spaniard played down any suggestion the final would be a grudge match.

Snow melts in face of Fahey's power

ROBERT FAHEY, the world champion, underlined his supremacy when he beat the British No 1, Julian Snow, in straight sets to win the Australian Open real tennis championship. Fahey, who had looked vulnerable earlier in the tournament, dropping two sets to the unseeded Mike Hapell, was fast and aggressive against Snow, making full use of his home advantage on the unpredictable Hobart court and forcing with extraordinary accuracy on almost every point. Snow fought gallantly, attempting to break up his opponent's rhythm, but failed to make an impression.

Kate Leeming, of Great Britain, the new Harbour Club assistant professional, inflicted a crushing defeat on the highly experienced Karen Toates, wife of the Melbourne professional, Barry, to reach the semi-final of the Australian Open women's championship at Hobart.

Pankratov best again

SWIMMING: Dennis Pankratov, of Russia, set a world record of 23.68sec in the 50 metres butterfly at a meeting in Mulhouse, France, on Saturday, beating the previous record by 0.37sec. The previous record of 24.05sec was set by Byron Davis, of the United States, in Indianapolis in March. Pankratov is the Olympic champion and world record-holder over 100 and 200 metres butterfly.

England sweep board

SHOOTING: England's clay pigeon shooters dominated the Express World Sporting Championship at the West Midland Shooting Ground yesterday, winning 12 medals. Carl Bloxham, of Warwickshire, won the senior gold medal ahead of George Digweed, the three-times world champion. Glenn Eller III, of the United States, won the junior title. All four team gold medals were also won by England.

Ball finds the target

RIFLE SHOOTING: The Great Britain touring team dominated the British Columbia Rifle Championships, winning four of the five aggregates and three single-range matches. There was constant rivalry between Chief Petty Officer Nigel Ball, from Hampshire, the eventual winner of the overall championship, and Chris Weeden, from Kent, who finished third behind Mike Duria, of the United States.

Lacey dies aged 75

RUGBY UNION: Eric Lacey, the president of Leicester during their centenary season in 1980-81, died yesterday. He was 75 and had been suffering from ill health for some time. Lacey played 175 times for Leicester as a lock forward and also appeared for the Barbarians. He would have completed 50 years' service to the club as both player and administrator next year.

Woolmer impressed by display of youthful skills

By Ivo Tennant

TO QUALIFY for the semi-finals of the Lombard World Challenge, the compelling inaugural under-15 World Cup, England, who have gained victories over Canada and Zimbabwe, have to win their final group A match at Lensbury in west London today. If they lose, West Indies, their opponents, will go through with India. Likewise, South Africa have to beat Australia to join either Pakistan, who have won their first three matches, or Sri Lanka from group B.

There was a rest day yesterday, at least for the boys, who have mixed together well. In celebration of the competition, a charity celebrity match was staged at Oundle School, the bowling opened by Devon Malcolm and ... Samantha Fox. She had one reasonably presentable over, although this was not exactly what Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, was referring to when he declared how impressed he was at the standard of the cricket he had seen during the first week.

The very fact that Woolmer was present, at a time when he



IN SCHOOLS

was supposed to be on holiday, was testimony to the thoroughness with which South Africa plan for the future. He believes that the replacements for the likes of Donald and de Villiers will come from this age group. In other words, he is looking for some of these 15-year-olds to be Test cricketers within the next four years.

There have been other familiar figures at Oundle, a school with impressive pitches. Indeed, one of them arrived to visit his son at 2am last Thursday, only to find him, not surprisingly, asleep in the dormitories that are housing the boys. Abdul Qadir, the great Pakistani leg spinner, always had a sense of the

dramatic. In the marriage hall that he runs in Lahore, there is a mural depicting a young Imran Khan with full, sensuous lips. Qadir named his son after his former captain.

The Pakistanis are perhaps the strongest team in the two groups. Imran Qadir, although he lost his length last week, has already mastered the googly. Buzid Khan, Majid's son, who is expected to progress as quickly as the captain, Faisal Iqbal, attends Aitchison College in Lahore, which in terms of educational standards and sporting facilities is comparable to the top public schools in England.

Both Majid and Imran Khan went there.

The teams that cannot now qualify are Canada and Holland — neither of whom won any of their four matches — Zimbabwe and, surprisingly in the light of the pride they take in developing young cricketers, Australia, who have won only once.

Rather than fly home, the teams from these countries will take part in a mini tournament at Oundle this week, while the semi-finalists move on to Trent Bridge and Headingley.



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All Blacks

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem. This involves gathering information about the situation and understanding the needs of the stakeholders involved.

2. Once the problem is identified, the next step is to develop a plan. This involves setting goals and determining the steps that need to be taken to achieve those goals.

3. The third step is to implement the plan. This involves putting the plan into action and monitoring progress.

4. Finally, the fourth step is to evaluate the results. This involves assessing the effectiveness of the plan and making adjustments as needed.

NIGHT

They have taken up the

Unsure England carry on planning

[illegible]

TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE



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All Blacks set sights on higher prize

BY DAVID HANDS

ALASTAIR MURRAY

Barry Trowbridge takes sides in the golden jubilee year of a little-known sport that now has Olympic recognition

It's not a basket or a net, it's a korf

As the Olympic flame went out in Atlanta last weekend, korfbal in England celebrated its fiftieth birthday with a golden jubilee tournament in Beckenham, southeast London — and very few people noticed. Symptomatic of the majority of truly minority sports in Great Britain, in that it needs funding to expand yet has been told repeatedly that it must widen the base of its playing pyramid before it will be considered for a handout, korfbal's biggest problem is one of identity — "You play what?" — and that, indeed, is a shame.

Adapted by Nico Broekhuysen, a teacher in a mixed school in Amsterdam, from a game that he saw being played in southern Sweden in 1902, korfbal is championed by those at its heart as the only sport worldwide that, by definition, must be played by mixed teams, and is a handball game of pace and immense variety.

To give a visual description to the vast majority who have never even heard of korfbal, it is best defined as a mixture of basketball and netball. The pitch is rectangular and measures 40 metres by 20 metres indoors or 60 metres by 30 metres on grass, and is divided in two. If you touch the lines around your division, you are out of bounds.

There are eight players in a team; two men and two women play in defence and the same in attack, but, after every two goals — scored by either team — the players change divisions, and roles: attackers become defenders and defenders become attackers.

Players are not allowed to run with the ball, although the interpretation of gaining ground is far less prohibitive than in netball, so the use of space and movement away from your opponent are important. This creates the appearance of eight defenders shadowing eight attackers from beginning to end, which is, indeed, the case, as players tend to keep to an individual opponent throughout.

Goals are scored through a basket — without the backboard that is such an integral part of basketball — that stands 11ft 6in off the ground and is placed at two-third distance between halfway and the endline. Play, therefore, can continue when a shot is missed, so tall players obviously have an advantage in ball-retrieval here, while the part of the pitch

behind the post is an area in which to keep your opponent's eyes off the ball.

Players may shoot from anywhere in the attacking zone, provided that they are not being "defended" by somebody of their own sex: the definition of "defended" being that the defender must be within arm's length of and facing the attacker, between the attacker and the post, and be actively trying to block the path of the ball — not, note, blocking the free movement of the attacker's arms. Simple: lose your defender off the ball, receive a pass, then shoot.

Although very much a team game — the ball must be passed to the right place at the right time if you are to shoot — to succeed at the top level, individuals require balance,



acceleration, hand-eye coordination and the ability to think ahead and move into space, but the fact that players have to continually change their roles means that "stars" — ie, goalscorers — tend to be eclipsed by team success.

Korfbal emerged in June 1903, after Broekhuysen had returned to Holland, and the game began as an outdoor pursuit of 12 players per side, on something the size of a hockey pitch and split into three divisions — attack, centre and defence — with players rotating through all three roles after every two goals. In the main, that is how it stayed for 80-odd years.

Not until after korfbal was demonstrated at the Olympic Games in Antwerp in 1920 did its fascination stretch beyond the Dutch border — Belgium duly taking up the challenge — but that was the limit of expansion until after the Second World War.

Through the Anglo Netherlands Sports Association, Dutch players demonstrated

the game for the first time in England at Willesden, north-west London, on July 6, 1946 and, in September 1948, a league was born comprising six teams: two each from Croydon, Mitcham and Wandsworth.

Although the game became established in southeast London, expansion in England in the next 30 years was minimal, but by 1980 a league had been formed around Maidstone, Kent, and the world governing body, inevitably Dutch, was looking on England as a prime site for growth.

By this time, too, what was to prove a far more significant metamorphosis had begun. The removal of the centre division when the game was played indoors, the subsequent cut in team size from 12 to eight and a worldwide shift in emphasis from an outdoor sport to an indoor one, were to make korfbal far more marketable. In England, Max Buttinger and Graham Box, young men about to begin university courses, were also to make their mark.

Established players in London and Kent, respectively, they introduced indoor korfbal to London and Oxford universities, and the student jungle telegraph took over. Domestically and globally, the development of korfbal in the next 15 years was phenomenal.

From its base in London and Kent, the National League was formed in 1987 and the game in Great Britain now attracts some 4,000 players and is firmly established in more than 30 centres — ranging from Aberdeen to Brighton and from Plymouth to Norwich, where there is a junior league comprising 26 schools. This weekend, 27 teams contested the national county championship in Nottingham.

Internationally, korfbal is established in more than 50 countries and it has been recently afforded full membership of the Olympic movement. In magazines just published, the international federation has featured the game in such diverse places as Armenia, Australia, Russia, South Africa and the United States; in Taiwan, it receives Government funding.

The most recent world championship was held in Delhi, India, in 1995, when Britain finished eighth. In 1987, Britain was third.

Although the world of korfbal is expanding fast, there is no reason why that decline should continue. With the National Curriculum determining that children of both sexes are taught skills rather than expertise in specific games, korfbal seems to have all the requirements to spread nationwide.

It may have taken 50 years to lay the foundations, but international success — and, in the not-too-distant future, perhaps, Olympic recognition — is there for the taking... once people stop asking "You play what?"



Playing the game: mixed teams swap the roles of defender and attacker during play



Family fun: John Crisp, left, with his children Anne and David, and grandson Roger

KORFBAL had been established in England for less than three years when John Crisp made the discovery of what he describes as "the biggest influence on my life outside of my family".

He played his first game in February, 1949, and, at 68, he still turns out occasionally for the Pelham club, which is based in Wimbledon.

He met Joyce, who was to become his wife in January, 1953 — "the date was chosen because Mitcham had no league fixture that weekend" — on a korfbal pitch two months later, so it is not surprising that their two sons and daughter took up the sport as youngsters.

Stuart, the younger son, eventually drifted towards football, but David, 38, and Anne, 34,

are still actively involved, and Roger, Anne's nine-year-old son, is an eager junior, proving that, for the Crisp dynasty at least, korfbal really is a "Sport For All".

A lover of the outdoors, John Crisp is adamant that the condensed game of the Nineties does not have the appeal that a 90-minute, three-division match on a winter Sunday morning used to have.

Nevertheless, his enthusiasm for korfbal is clearly as strong now as it was when he captained the successful Mitcham club from 1952 to 1967 and he still finds time to train each week and is an ever-present at all-day tournaments, a noteworthy feature of this most social of sports.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

As West, what would you lead from this hand:

♠ 52 ♥ 73 ♦ AKQ10873 ♣ K8

This is the auction:

W D N E S
All Pass Double Pass 1NT

The hand occurred in this year's Premier League match between Price and Sower. The full deal:

Dealer West	Game all	IMPs
♠ Q103 ♥ AK64 ♦ 2 ♣ QJ975		
♠ 52 ♥ 73 ♦ AKQ10873 ♣ K8	N W E S	♠ KJ864 ♥ QJ85 ♦ 6 ♣ 1063

Contract: 1NT by South. Lead: five of spades

I think Tom Townsend's lead was well thought out. It was likely that South had four diamonds to the jack to be able to bid 1NT. Thus West's best hope of beating the contract was to find East with an entry, to lead his singleton diamond through the declarer's holding.

It is true that if West had led and continued diamonds, he would later have got in with the king of clubs and still taken the contract one off. But the ace of clubs was more likely to be in dummy than with declarer. It is also true that if North had held the ace-king of spades instead of the ace-king of hearts, and South's holdings were corresponding-

ly reversed, a diamond would have been the only lead to beat the contract. To that extent it's a toss-up as to which major will work best. On this occasion the spade worked well — after winning the king of clubs West put his partner in with a second spade, and when East led back a diamond, West took seven tricks in the suit to beat the contract by three.

At the other table our teammates tried 3NT on the East-West cards, so our team went down a total of 700 in undertricks.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- AICH
- Neuralgia
 - Gummetal
 - A whisky cup
- DOP
- An idiot
 - Director of Punctuation
 - Brandy

- CROCKFORD
- A Bridge bidding convention
 - A current bun
 - A clerical directory
- EN-SOPH
- The Cabbalistic God
 - An American sorority club
 - An enzyme

Answers on page 37

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Children's Olympiad

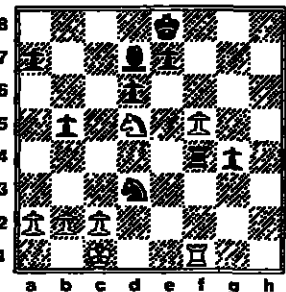
Thirty teams are taking part in the fourth Children's Olympiad in Suito More, in Montenegro. After two rounds the team from England has crushed Macedonia by 3.5-0.5 and drawn with Denmark 2-2. In the first round Karl Mah won the following sharp clash in the double-edged Dragon Variation of the Sicilian Defence.

White: Levkov
Black: Mah
Children's Olympiad
August 1996
Sicilian Defence

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 1 e4 | c5 |
| 2 Nf3 | d6 |
| 3 d4 | cxd4 |
| 4 Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5 Nc3 | g6 |
| 6 Bg5 | Bg7 |
| 7 Bc4 | 0-0 |
| 8 Bx4 | Nd5 |
| 9 Qd2 | Bd7 |
| 10 0-0-0 | Rc8 |
| 11 Bb3 | Ne5 |
| 12 h4 | h5 |
| 13 Bh6 | Nc4 |
| 14 Bxc4 | Rxc4 |
| 15 Bg7 | Kxg7 |
| 16 g4 | h4 |
| 17 h5 | Rh8 |
| 18 h6g5 | h5 |
| 19 f4 | b5 |
| 20 f5 | g5 |
| 21 exd5 | Kf7 |
| 22 Ne5 | Qg8 |
| 23 Nd5 | Ne4 |
| 24 Rf1h1 | Qd8 |
| 25 Ng5+ | Kxg8 |
| 26 Qf4 | Ch8 |
| 27 Na3 | Ra4 |
| 28 Ne6 | Qd4 |
| 29 Na4 | Nf2 |
| 30 Rf1 | Rd4 |
| 31 Nd5 | Nc3+ |

White resigns

Diagram of final position



British Championship
After six rounds of the British Championship in Nottingham, Chris Ward has defeated the defending champion, grandmaster Matthew Sadler, and leads with the fine score of 5.5/6. Sharing second place along with 12-year-old prodigy Luke McShane are: Aaron Summerscale, John Emms, Jonathan Parker, Charles Cobb, Andrew Martin and Graham Lee.

Two of the British junior championships have already been decided. The winner of the under-13 championship is Ross Battray, of Chesham, with 5.5/6 and the winner of the under-15 championship is Mark Roberts, of Sevenoaks, also with 5.5/6.

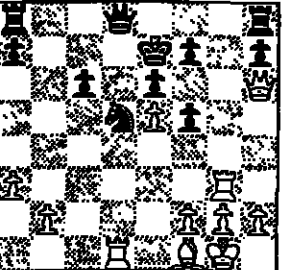
Chess demonstration
On Saturday August 17 from 10.30am at Hellers Bookshop, Sidney St, Cambridge, international master Bob Wade and national coach will be offering free chess clinics and lessons for younger players as well as being prepared to take on all-comers in games.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Speelman — Kosint, Denmark 1996. The black pawn structure is weak and his king is exposed but his knight on d5 is a very good piece. Can you see how White dealt with Black's strengths while further exposing his weaknesses?



Solution on page 37

WHERE TO WATCH

THE next opportunity to see korfbal is at the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, on September 21, when Croydon, the national champions in what is also their fiftieth year, compete with their counterparts from France and Portugal in a

European Cup qualifying tournament. Further details and other information from the British Korfbal Association, PO Box 179, Maidstone, Kent, or from Max Buttinger, 9 St Kilda's Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 1QD (0181-863 8723).

SPORTS LETTERS

Olympic failures rooted in coaching ethos

From Mr M. Byford

Sir, There has been much deliberation as to the cause of our poor showing in the Olympics. As the Government embarks on a potentially costly course of action to rectify this, let me offer another view. I am involved in coaching, mainly tennis and rowing. In order to do this competently, professionally and with minimum injury to athletes, I have studied for a BSc, a Masters degree in Medical Science and a PGCE and also taken a number of vocational qualifications at considerable expense. As a reward, I am instructed by the LTA that I can charge £15 per hour for coaching (this money covers shoes, balls, racquets, re-stringing) and the rowing tradition is that the only payment is that of gratitude.

The question I would ask is why bother? The coaching ethos in this country is to promote ex-athletes to the highest positions where they can reinforce the poor and

sometimes debilitating methods they were coached under. They know very little of physiology, et cetera. This is not sour grapes. I have had major success with my scientifically-based coaching methodology, but have been unable to break into the old boys' (and girls') networks which govern both these sports. Ex-top class athletes should be marketing sport and encouraging children to take part, not coaching unless sufficiently talented and trained as "coaches".

I suggest the Government targets its support at the grassroots and rewards these people realistically for their contributions in order to maximise the number of potential Olympians, rather than fritter it away by making the elite even more so at the expense of British sport as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE BYFORD,
23 Westfield Road,
Great Shelford,
Cambridgeshire, CB2 5JW.

From Mr C. Johnston

Sir, Many theories have already been put forward in the hope of explaining why Great Britain enjoyed such little success in Atlanta. I believe, however, that I have located the real cause of Britain's underachievement — Sue Barker's eyebrows. Although they are attached to a rather likeable face, these sad-looking angled creatures seem particularly unsuited to the task of conveying good news.

I can only assume that Miss Barker recognises her dilemma and had a quiet word with some of our major athletes, in order to guarantee that there would be plenty of hard-luck, eyebrow-friendly stories to relate.

Sincerely,
CHRIS JOHNSTON,
Thwaites House,
Duddon Hall,
Broughton-in-Furness,
Cumbria.

Wimbledon still open to allcomers

From the Chief Executive of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club

Sir, Simon Barnes's article (Midweek View, August 7) provided an enjoyable read as ever, but a pity he could not resist an inaccurate swipe at Wimbledon. For the record perhaps I might be allowed to correct one or two things.

Not only do tennis fans continue to have genuine access to tickets through the public ballot and the country's 2,500 affiliated tennis clubs, but Wimbledon remains one of the few top sporting events in this country for which people can still buy tickets on the day.

You might also like to know that corporate hospitality represents under 10 per cent of the ticket allocation on Centre Court and No 1 Court and that over the past few years, the club has reduced the level of corporate hospitality within the grounds. Indeed, there are plans to reduce it still further in the future.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GORRINGE,
Chief Executive,
The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club,
Church Road, Wimbledon,
SW19 5AE.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-762 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Handwritten signature and date: "John 12/10/96"

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: BPP, Henderson Admin, London Finance & Investment, Smith & Nephew, TSB, WPI Group, Finales: Australian Opp Inv Trust, US Smaller Companies Investment Trust.

Economics statistics: UK July producer prices; Bank of France money market tender; Bank of France discount T-bill auction; US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: BOC, General Accident, General Cable, Lillieshall, Sedgwick Group, Finales: VDS.

Economics statistics: US July consumer prices index; US July retail sales; US Mitsubishi weekly store sales; US July real earnings; US Atlanta Fed survey; US Johnson Redbook survey; US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills; French provisional Q2 employment data.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: F&C Income Growth Inv Trust, Glynwed International, Hemingway Properties, Independent Insurance Group, MAID, Finales: Celtic, Duncin Japan Inv Trust.

Economics statistics: Minutes of July 3 monetary policy meeting between the Chancellor and Governor of the Bank of England; July British Retail Consortium survey; UK July unemployment; UK May average earnings; unit wage costs; US June business inventories; US Q2 non-farm productivity; Bundesbank awards repos.

THURSDAY

Interims: T Clarke, LM Ericsson, Microvitec, North Midlands Construction, Portmington Potteries, Rea Brothers Group, Hanson (Q3), Johnson Group Cleaners, Finales: Kleinwort High Income.

Economics statistics: UK July RPI; US weekly jobs claims; US July industrial production; US August Philadelphia Fed survey; US July capacity utilisation; US Treasury auction of 52-week T-bills; Philadelphia Fed August business survey. Public holiday in most of Europe, French markets closed.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled. Finales: none scheduled.

Economics statistics: UK July PSBR; US July housing starts; US August Michigan consumer sentiment.

COMPANIES

CLARE STEWART

WPP bathed in a golden glow



Assessing the damage: General Accident's Bob Scott is expected to report a sharp fall in profits

WPP: British Olympic medals may have been thin on the ground, but WPP, the marketing services giant, will have enjoyed the publicity glow surrounding two of its largest clients, IBM and Kodak — Olympic sponsors and big spenders.

Interim figures today from WPP look set to show profits up by a third to £64 million, helped by strong revenue growth and continued margin improvement.

Bumper profits will also take Martin Sorrell, chief executive, nearer the target set for his controversial long-term incentive scheme, which could pay him £28 million over five years.

Suggestions of a share buyback have helped to buoy shares recently, but WPP, which still has debts to reduce, may prefer to spend its surplus cash on small infill acquisitions or on beefing up the dividend.

SMITH & NEPHEW: Uncertain conditions in the US and slower growth in the UK are likely to hold back sales at Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group.

Interim pre-tax profits, due today, are expected to rise about 7 per cent to £91 million, but analysts have trimmed back full-year forecasts to less than £190 million. Interest in the surgical dressings to Simple soap group is likely to focus on progress in important new areas, such as its joint venture with Advanced Tissue Sciences to grow human skin artificially. The Dermagraft product is expected to have considerable potential for use in treating burns, ulcers and in conjunction with plastic surgery. The company has hinted that more hi-tech developments are being sought.

GENERAL ACCIDENT: The first of a clutch of insurers reporting this week will see the cost of winter weather claims feature heavily tomorrow in its figures for the six months to June, and operating profits are expected to fall from £254 million to about £170 million.

The underwriting result overall is likely to show a sharp fall, with analysts at NatWest Securities forecasting an increased loss from £8 million to £141 million.

Life profits, however, look rosier, helped by the acquisition of Provident Mutual earlier this year. Bob Scott, chief executive, said that first-quarter progress was better than originally expected and profits are expected to outpace rationalisation costs this year. A dividend of 11.4p, up 6.5 per cent, is forecast.

SEDGWICK GROUP: The impact of the weaker dollar and disappointing new business levels in the US will be seen in tomorrow's results from the insurance broker. The City is expecting a small increase in pre-

tax profits on last year's £63 million, with estimates ranging between £64 million and £68 million. An unchanged dividend of 3p is forecast.

BOC: Third-quarter results from the industrial gases group should see pre-tax profits in the range of £110 million to £115 million, against £99.8 million in 1995. Continued evidence of strong earnings growth is expected and a full-year result of £460 million before tax is being pencilled in.

GENERAL CABLE: Reduced pre-tax losses are expected when

General Cable reports interim figures tomorrow. Losses are expected to narrow to £9 million against £11 million in 1995.

General Cable, which operates franchises in West London, Birmingham and Yorkshire, has recently taken full control of Yorkshire Cable. While profits are not expected until 1999, further good news on cash flow is expected. The group was cash positive in the last quarter of 1995 and the first quarter of 1996. News on subscriber levels and telephone line connections will also be sought to give an indication of the group's progress.

GLYNWED: A modest increase in pre-tax profits is forecast for the Midlands engineering conglomerate, which reports half-year figures on Wednesday.

Sliding metals prices and a lacklustre construction industry have held back progress at Glynwed, where profits are set to increase by about 6 per cent to £44 million. The figures will also include an increased contribution from Viteaulic, the pipeline products manufacturer acquired last year.

Analysts say that restructuring at the group, which produces products ranging from Aga cookers to manhole covers, means it is well prepared for recovery in its key markets.

MAID: The online information provider will be expected to report good news along with its interim figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax losses are set to rise to a little less than £3 million, compared with a profit of £408,000 in the first half of 1995. The losses reflect the cost of the company's rapid growth, but the City will swallow this if there is news of more expansion and new deals to sustain the momentum.

Shares in the group headed by Dan Wagner, its 33-year-old chief executive, have a had a roller-coaster ride, propelled ahead by its link-up with Microsoft and by alliances with IBM, CompuServe and Fortis, now part of Granada. Shares began this week at 280p, having touched a high of 341p and a low of 153p in 1996.

HANSON: Chemicals will be under the spotlight when Hanson releases third-quarter figures on Thursday. Ahead of exceptional items — chiefly the proceeds of its £2 billion disposal programme — analysts are looking for pre-tax profits in the range of £255 million to £300 million, compared to £321 million last year.

The results will highlight the impact of falling prices on Hanson's chemicals businesses, which are due to be floated off in October. Earlier this month Hanson announced cutbacks in its SCM business, the world's third-largest producer of titanium dioxide, supplied to the paint, plastics and paper industries.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Inflation data in spotlight

After the Bank of England's cautious words on inflation last week, coupled with the suggestion that interest rates might need to rise, attention will focus sharply on the inflation-related data published this week.

The inflation statistics for July will be unveiled on Thursday, with MMS forecasting headline inflation to jump from 2.1 per cent to 2.3 per cent. The Government's favoured RPIX measure, which excludes mortgage payments, is expected to show a similar increase to 3 per cent. But some economists believe that downward pressure from mortgage rates and the continuing supermarket wars may help to keep the inflation rate in check.

Producer prices data for July, which provide an indication of potential inflationary pressures at the start of the distribution cycle, will be published today. The sector has struggled in recent months and MMS predicts that factory output prices will show a monthly fall of 0.1 per cent, compared with a 0.2 per cent drop in June, while the yearly rate will show a fall from 2.6 per cent to 2.2 per cent. However, input prices are expected to rise slightly after an increase in oil prices.

On Wednesday, July's unemployment is expected to show a further fall of 15,000, compared with 14,300 in June. In spite of the continuing fall in unemployment, average earnings for June are predicted to show a modest 3.5 per cent rise.

On Friday, the public sector borrowing requirement is forecast to rise by £0.2 billion, although the Government has little room for error if it intends to push through tax cuts in the autumn. The British Retail Consortium retail sales survey for July, published on Wednesday, is expected to show strong growth, although a touch lower than June's 7 per cent rise.

Overseas, attention will focus on US retail sales, which are expected to fall 0.5 per cent, and housing starts, where a small fall to 1.46 million is also predicted.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Fenner, Quicks, N Brown Group and Takara; Hold Morgan Sindall and General Accident.

The Sunday Telegraph: Buy W H Smith, N Brown Group and Home Counties Newspapers; Hold Airtours, The Observer, Buy De Beers and GKN, Independent on Sunday, Buy Bensons Crisps and Rentokil; Sell RJB Mining; Hold Bluebird Toys.

Court of Appeal

Law Report August 12 1996

Court of Appeal

Wrong defendants named on writ

Murray v Hibernian Dance Club

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment July 24]

Where a plaintiff, who fell and broke her ankle when visiting a members' club, sued for damages naming the defendant as the Hibernian Dance Club, an unincorporated entity, the issue which was raised on appeal was the question of who was the intended defendant rather than whether the claim against the named defendant was maintainable.

In all the circumstances it was not considered that the mistake made, namely to sue the members and/or proprietors of the club under a collective title apt to describe them but devoid of personality at English law, as opposed to suing individually named defendants, was such as to cause any reasonable doubt that the claim was being asserted against the membership as a whole.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by the defendants, the Hibernian Dance Club, against a decision of Judge Phelan, on May 23, 1995, at West London County Court, whereby he allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Mrs Dyan Murray, against the order of District Judge Haselgrove who, on January 27, 1995, had struck out the action.

Mr Robert Deacon for the Hibernian Dance Club; Mr Michael Irvine for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON said the plaintiff claimed that her injury was caused by slipping on some liquid on the floor of the club, in Fulham Broadway, London, on January 22, 1989.

She later consulted solicitors, Brocklesley & Co, and a writ was issued on April 5, 1990. On May 20, 1991 her solicitors claimed that they were told by the solicitors for the club, Finers, that the correct defendant was the Hibernian Club and not the individual they had named. That was later disputed.

On May 22, 1991 Finers served a defence drafted by counsel, which gave no hint of taking any point as to parties and certainly did not assert that the Hibernian Dance Club was not an entity capable of being sued, together with a request for further and better particulars, which was answered on August 14, 1992, on which date the plaintiff's solicitors also served a reply.

The primary limitation period had expired on January 21, 1992. On April 15, 1993, with the consent of Finers, the action was transferred to West London County Court.

The inescapable inference from letters of January 11 and 13, 1995, received by the plaintiff's solicitors from Finers was that it was only as a result of counsel's pointing out that a members' club could not be sued in the style adopted here that Finers realised there was a defect and decided, belatedly, to raise it.

On February 19, 1995 Finers applied for the plaintiff's claim to be struck out on the ground that the purported defendant was in law a non-existent entity. The plaintiff's solicitors applied to leave to amend to join the member of the committee of the club as at the date of the accident as defendants.

In allowing the appeal the judge gave leave to amend under Order 20, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, as applied to county court proceedings by Order 15 of the County Court Rules.

The real issue raised by the appeal was who was the intended defendant. As Lord Justice Griffiths emphasised in *Evans Construction Co Ltd v Charrington & Co Ltd* [1993] 1 QB 810, 825, when considering the nature of a mistake sought to be corrected by a plaintiff in respect of a wrongly named defendant, the crucial question was whether the mistake was such as to cause any reasonable doubt as to the person intended to be sued.

It seemed to his Lordship plain that, in all the circumstances, there was and could have been no reasonable doubt in the minds of the defendants, at least when they were served with the amended writ and statement of claim, that the claim was asserted, and intended to be asserted, against the entire membership of the Hibernian Dance Club.

Airbus Industrie GIE v Patel and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment July 30]

On recognised principles of English law, the English courts had jurisdiction to grant an injunction against the defendants, notwithstanding the application was not made for the purpose of protecting proceedings in this country. The discretion to grant such an injunction should be exercised to prevent an injustice as in the instant case where to allow the defendants to continue their proceedings, in an inappropriate forum, would be unconscionable and oppressive and unjust to the plaintiffs.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments pronouncing in favour of the plaintiffs, Airbus Industrie GIE, from the refusal by Mr Justice Collins (The Times May 21, 1996) to exercise his discretion in their favour and grant them an injunction to restrain the defendants, Jairesh Patel, Neeta Patel, D, an infant, by Jairesh Patel, Ratna Patel, Valhi Patel and T, an infant, by Ratna Patel, from pursuing an appeal from the decision of the Texas State District Court refusing the defendants' jurisdiction for an action against the plaintiffs.

In 1994 an India Airlines A320 aircraft manufactured by Airbus crashed as it was about to land at Bangalore. The defendants, British citizens resident in England who were among the passengers, had claims arising.

In 1992 two sets of plaintiffs commenced separate proceedings against Airbus in the Texas court. The defendants were the plaintiffs in one of these actions.

Following complex procedural manoeuvres the Texas court held that Airbus was immune from suit in the United States. The defendants sought to appeal against that decision.

In April 1995 Airbus obtained a declaration in the Bangalore City Civil Court that the defendants were not entitled to proceed against Airbus in any court other than in Bangalore.

By originating summons Airbus applied to Mr Justice Collins for an injunction to restrain the defendants from pursuing their appeal against the decision of the Texas court.

Mr Michael Crane, QC and Mr Akhil Shah for the plaintiffs, Airbus; Mr Jeremy J Russell, QC and Miss Pranam Midhani for the defendants, the English claimants.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that the question was whether the English claimants should be restrained from prosecuting further an action they had started against Airbus in Texas on the ground that those proceedings were vexatious and oppressive.

The judge accepted that he had jurisdiction to grant an injunction but, in the exercise of his discretion

having regard to the extent of the prejudice to Airbus and the advantages to the claimants in litigating in Texas, concluded that it was not appropriate to do so.

There was no precedent covering the case, all previous cases having been concerned with the interrelation of English proceedings and proceedings in a foreign court.

The answer had to be found by having regard to principle. The statements of principle found in the authorities did cover cases such as the present and provided a basis on which an injunction could be granted if the facts justified it: see *Castanho v Brown & Root (UK) Ltd* [1981] AC 573, 579; *British Airways Board v Laker Airways Ltd* [1985] AC 58, 95; *South Carolina Insurance Co v Assurantie Maatschappij "De Zeeven Provincien" NV* [1987] AC 24, 40, 44; and *Société Nationale Industrielle Aérospatiale v Lee Kui Jak* [1987] AC 871, 894.

Danger of inferring intent only from action

Before Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Collins and Judge Myerson

[Judgment July 23]

Where the only evidence of a defendant's intention was the evidence of his acts and their consequences on the victim, the jury were not entitled to infer the necessary intent, in the rare case where the defendant might not have purposed the death or serious injury of the victim, unless the jury were sure that death or serious injury was a virtual certainty and the defendant must have appreciated that such was the case.

It was not, however, necessary to couch the direction in such terms where there was evidence in addition to the defendant's actions and their effects on the victim.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held on July 23 in dismissing an appeal by Stephen Leslie Woolfin against his conviction in December 1995 at Leeds Crown Court (Judge Walsh, QC and a jury) of murder for which he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Section 8 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 provides: "A court or jury, in determining whether a person has committed an offence — (a) shall not be bound in law to infer that he intended or foresaw a result of his actions by reason only of its being a natural

and probable consequence of those actions; but (b) shall decide whether he did intend or foresee that result by reference to all the evidence, drawing such inferences from the evidence as appear proper in the circumstances."

Mr Thomas Bayliss, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Peter Collier, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH, delivering the judgment of the court, said that in interview the appellant told police officers that he had "lost his cool" when his three-month old baby started to choke on his food.

He had shaken him and then a fit of rage or frustration had thrown the baby in the direction of his pram some four feet away where it stood against the wall. He knew that the baby's head had hit something hard but denied any intention of throwing him against the wall and had not wanted him to die.

The case for the appellant was that he had not intended that the baby should suffer serious physical harm and therefore had not had the intent required for murder.

In summing up the judge directed the jury that they might infer intention if they were satisfied that when the defendant threw the child he appreciated that there was a substantial risk that he

An injunction should be granted requiring the claimants not to prosecute further proceedings against Airbus in Texas.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, concurring, said that he found the question whether an injunction should be granted or not to be unusually difficult but was in the end persuaded that it should be. The key was the Texas court's disregard of the principle of forum conveniens, the crucial significance of which had not come home to the judge.

Unless that question was considered by the English court, it would not be considered by any court having the power to enforce its decision. Directly the court assumed that responsibility, it could be clearly seen that Texas was not an appropriate forum for the resolution of the dispute.

Further, to allow the English claimants to continue their proceedings there would be not only unconscionable but oppressive and unjust to Airbus. Accordingly, while emphasising the quite exceptional facts of the case, Airbus was entitled to the relief they sought.

Lord Justice Aldous agreed. Solicitors: Cameron Markhy Hewitt; Clyde & Co.

When debt cannot be set off against claim

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Waite

[Judgment July 23]

A party could not set off a debt held by a nominee against a claim by an insolvent company in circumstances where the court had to inquire into the party's ownership of the debt at the date of the winding-up of the company.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal brought by the defendant, Prince Fahd Bin Salman Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, against the decision of Mr J. Wadsworth, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court on December 13, 1994, allowed an appeal brought by the liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA against the decision of Deputy Master Leslie on October 12, 1994 to give the defendant leave to defend the action commenced by the liquidators, following which they issued an Order 14 summons.

Mr Terence Mowshenson, QC, for the defendant; Mr Robin Dicker for the liquidators.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appeal raised a question of importance as to the meaning and

effect of rule 4.90 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925).

In the proceedings the bank had sought to recover from the defendant \$396,842.01 pursuant to a guarantee given by the defendant in respect of an overdrawn balance owed by him in respect of an overdrawn balance owed by Colchect Corporation NV, Colchect banked with BCCI at its Edgware Road branch.

The defendant sought to set off against the sum claimed the monies standing to the credit of three accounts at BCCI's Park Lane branch in the name of Mr Esam Ghazzawi on the basis that it was said that those sums were owned beneficially by the defendant.

The writ was issued on May 19, 1994 and on May 31 the bank issued an Order 14 summons.

The claim by the bank was put forward on the basis that it was a simple claim for the payment of money due under a contract of guarantee. The bank relied on rule 4.90 of the Insolvency Rules and *Re Willis, Perchell & Co, Ex parte Morier* (1879) 12 Ch D 491.

The judge found on the basis of that case that the set-off could not be allowed because there was a dispute as to the ownership of the monies in the three Park Lane accounts and because it would be necessary to have an investigation into the entitlement of those

monies.

It was argued on behalf of the defendant that it was at least arguable that on a proper construction of rule 4.90 a party could set off a debt held by a nominee against a claim by an insolvent company even though the court might have to inquire into the party's ownership of the debt at the date of the winding-up of the company.

Like the judge, his Lordship was unclear as to the extent of any intermingling of the payments in the three accounts between Mr Ghazzawi's own money and money which might have come from the defendant. Moreover, his Lordship was unclear as to the claims which Mr Ghazzawi might have against those accounts.

Indeed it was accepted on behalf of the defendant that some inquiry would be necessary to ascertain the precise state of accounts between the defendant and Mr Ghazzawi, although it was contended that the need for such an inquiry did not prevent the sums standing in the three accounts constituting provable debts and therefore being available for the purposes of an insolvency set-off.

Counsel for the liquidators submitted correctly that unless the rule in *Ex parte Morier* was distinguished or could be taken to be modified by the House of

Lords in *Stein v Blake* [1996] 1 AC 243

the court was bound by an authority of long standing.

His Lordship found that the case was not distinguishable and the difficulty with the suggestion that *Ex parte Morier* was to be taken to be modified by Lord Hoffmann's speech in *Stein v Blake* was that it did not appear that Lord Hoffmann considered that he was introducing a change in the law.

Moreover, the rule in *Ex parte Morier* was itself supported by other authorities and by statements in textbooks.

It was true that a debt which was not eligible for proof was not eligible for set off. But that did not mean that all debts which were eligible for proof were eligible for set off under rule 4.90. The rule added the requirement that the debts had to be mutual.

His Lordship accepted the submission of the liquidators that unless the defendant's entitlement to the monies in the three Park Lane accounts could be shown to be clear and ascertained there was a lack of mutuality or reciprocity between himself and the bank. There was no arguable defence available to the defendant and the appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Waite agreed. Solicitors: Stevens & Bolton, Guildford; Wilde Saple.

NEC

Deutsch Telekom 'near to cable deal'

TOURIST RATES

CHANGE OF DEER

STOCK MARKET

US dollar

NEC

Deutsche Telekom 'near to cable deal'

By ERIC REGULY

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM is thought to be close to forming a cable alliance that could emerge as the prime competitor to Mercury Communications in the lucrative business market.

Deutsche Telekom, the monopoly phone company that is to be privatised by the German Government in the autumn, is considering buying a stake — thought to be no more than 30 per cent — in Bell Cablemedia, the third largest cable company.

Bell Cablemedia would then launch a takeover bid for Videotron, the sixth largest player. Videotron, controlled by Groupe Videotron, of Montreal, has been on the auction block for several months and is widely expected to fall into Bell Cablemedia's hands because it already owns 20 per cent. None of the companies would comment.

Observers said that the deal, if it succeeds, would create a formidable force in

the corporate telecoms market because the franchisees of Bell Cablemedia, and Videotron over Westminster, the City of London, and Canary Wharf.

The cable companies, in turn, would have an instant overseas partner in Deutsche Telekom, Europe's biggest phone company.

Deutsche Telekom would also give the cable companies international access through Global One, the alliance that it recently formed with France Telecom and Sprint, America's third largest long-distance phone carrier.

Analysis and telecoms experts said that a Deutsche Telekom cable alliance could pose a significant competitive threat to Mercury Communications, which has largely abandoned the residential market and makes the bulk of its income from City and business customers.

Mercury may feel betrayed if the deal goes ahead. Cable and Wireless, its parent, owns 12.8 per cent of Bell Cablemedia and has two seats on its board.

In recent months, Bell Cablemedia and Mercury had been taking steps to combine some of their services.

Mercury insiders said that the arrival of Deutsche Telekom has put a strain on the relationship. C&W's ownership of Bell Cablemedia is not high enough to block a deal. Bell Canada International, with 42 per cent, and Jones Interchange of Denver, with 12.3 per cent, are thought to be supportive of the transaction.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.09	1.90
Austria Sch	17.20	15.70
Belgium Fr	50.45	48.15
Canada \$	2.28	2.05
Cyprus Cyp	0.749	0.694
Denmark Kr	9.48	8.88
Finland Mk	1.51	1.41
France Fr	8.26	7.81
Germany DM	2.46	2.25
Greece Dr	363	335
Hong Kong \$	11.85	11.05
Iceland Lkr	1.01	0.95
Italy Lit	2.48	2.34
Japan Yen	192.30	185.80
Netherlands Gld	0.598	0.541
Norway Kr	2.735	2.505
New Zealand \$	2.40	2.18
Norway Kr	10.49	9.89
Portugal Esc	248.00	229.50
S. Africa Rd	2.82	2.62
Spain Ptas	202.50	188.50
Sweden Kr	10.95	10.15
Switzerland Fr	2.01	1.83
Turkey Lira	1327.70	1247.70
USA \$	1.521	1.481

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar

1.5496 (+0.0071)

German mark

2.2908 (+0.0113)

Exchange index

84.6 (+0.5)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share

2796.3 (+23.9)

FT-SE 100

3810.7 (+40.1)

New York Dow Jones

5681.31 (+1.48)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

20551.05 (-389.36)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 34

AICH

(b) An alloy of copper, zinc and iron, used in gun-making. An acronym of the patent, Johann Aich (3 February, 1860). "Aich's Metal is a brass of the 60/40 type that has good casting properties."

DOP

(c) In full, *dop brandy*, made from grape skins, and fiery rough. The Afrikaans word. "Jim got his daily number of lots of poisonous dop brandy."

CROCKFORD

(d) A colloquial designation of *Crockford's Clerical Directory*, a reference book for the clergy and the Church of England, first issued in 1860 by John Crockford. Not to be confused with the exclusive gambling club opened in St James's Street, London, in 1827 by William Crockford (1775-1844). "In more distant vicarages there were anxious searchings of the *Guardian* and *Crockford*."

EN-SOPH

(a) In Catholic doctrine, the absolute infinite and incomprehensible God. From the Greek for "One-Wise-Thing". "The chief heads of the Catholic doctrine are these. The Being from whom all things proceed is a Spirit, uncreated, eternal, existing by the necessity of its nature, and filling the immensity of space. This spirit is En-Soph, the Infinite Deity."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rd5 Wins quickly. One possible variation is 1... cxd5 2. Qf6+ Kd7 3. Qx7+ Qc7 4. Bb5+ Kd8 5. Rg8+ and White emerges a piece ahead

NEC

NEC Corporation

The Annual Report of NEC Corporation for the year ended 31st March, 1996 is available upon request. Please direct enquiries to the address below.

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George Magan has seen his firm give advice on 22 deals

Hambro Magan is best in sector

By JASON NISSE

JO HAMBRO MAGAN, the corporate finance boutique founded by George Magan, the former Morgan Grenfell leading light, has emerged as the most successful independent corporate finance house in the first survey of the sector. Phoenix Securities, whose founder, Sir John Craven, left to rescue Morgan Grenfell, Bots & Co, the media specialists with links to Herbert

Allen, the Wall Street financier, and Broadview Associates, a specialist information technology house, also figured strongly in an analysis to be published in *Acquisitions Monthly* tomorrow.

Specialist boutiques are becoming increasingly important in the City, taking many of the deals that the larger merchant banks cannot handle either because of conflicts or because the larger firms think the deals are too small.

However some of the largest bids of the past couple of years have been led by specialist firms. Hambro Magan advised Swiss Bank Corporation on its purchase of S G Warburg, Rhône-Poulenc Rorer on its bid for Fisons and United News & Media on its merger with MAI Group.

Acquisitions Monthly found that Hambro Magan advised on 22 deals worth £6.9 billion in the 18 months to June this year, putting it at number 13 in the list of all advisers, while Phoenix worked on 23 deals worth £1.52 billion.

Boutique	Deals	Value, £m
JO Hambro Magan	22	6,914
Phoenix Securities	23	1,517
Bots & Co	1	1,487
Broadview Associates	36	1,248
Apax Partners	20	365
Dawson Day	207	207
Avril Partners	6	201
Regent Associates	38	177
Cavendish Corp Finance	17	127
Livingstone Guarantee	22	78

Source: *Acquisitions Monthly*

Mail order shopping declines

The home shopping market fell last year, according to Verdict. The retail consultant claims that the industry has held vast amounts of useful information on customers for years, but has failed to capitalise on it. Such information could be used to produce smaller, better-targeted catalogues.

Instead, says Verdict: "The major companies remain firmly wedded to cumbersome 1,000-page books which seek to be all things to all men — or in the case of the vast majority of mail order agents, women." Home shopping sales in 1995 totalled £7.3 billion, the study calculates, a fall of 2.1 per cent on the previous year.

Eastern drive

New car sales in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are set to double to nearly three million within the next decade, according to a report published today. Carol Thomas, co-editor of *East European Automotive Industry Forecast Report*, predicts that annual new car demand in these countries will rise to 2.9 million from 1.4 million.

Airport study

A study commissioned by Enlightened Competition, a little-known free-market think-tank, says the construction and operation of Terminal 5 at Heathrow should be put out to tender. The think-tank says BAA has a monopoly, and has threatened legal action if the airport operator is given approval to build and run the terminal.

Imro on Net

Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, has become the first City regulator to launch its own Internet site (<http://www.imro.co.uk>) as fears grow that investors could be conned into handing over money to fraudsters.

US trend likely to set a positive tone

Although gilt investors may have drawn some comfort from last week's data showing a further fall in manufacturing output, the domestic environment is likely to turn increasingly adverse for the fixed interest market over the next few months. The consumer side of the economy is already pretty strong: retail sales are growing at an annual rate of between 2.5 and 3 per cent, and the housing market is at last enjoying a meaningful recovery. More significantly, there are now also some indications that this buoyant picture will soon spread to the lacklustre industrial sector.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the latest dip in output was, at least in part, a result of the corporate sector's desire in lower inventory holdings. In addition, survey material is turning increasingly positive.

The purchasing managers index rose to 50.9 in July, from 47.7 in May, and the latest CBI quarterly survey concluded that output expectations are now stronger than at any time since the second quarter of 1988. Although this report has, over the past year, tended towards the over-optimistic, the extent of the turnaround, coupled with the rise in business confidence, points quite emphatically towards an improving manufacturing climate.

In view of this, it is not unreasonable to assume that growth in the domestic economy will accelerate over the next six to nine months. Such an outcome need not threaten the benign inflation environment, but, at the very least, it is likely to justify the cautious message on interest rates evident in the Bank of England's recent *Inflation Report*.

The other key area of concern for gilts is the direction of policy ahead of a general

election. Although Kenneth Clarke has tried to reassure investors that the Government will not take risks with the economy, there remains a lingering suspicion that, with the Conservatives still trailing in opinion polls, something will have to be done. Whether this means further interest rate cuts or significant tax reductions is anybody's guess, but there remains deep scepticism that the Chancellor will follow the austere example set by Roy Jenkins in 1970. Policy driven by political considerations and coupled with robust recovery in economic activity is plainly not good news for the gilt market.

However, in the coming months, external influences are likely to be as important for the market as domestic factors, if not more important, and chief among external influences will be the

GILT-EDGED

trend in US interest rates.

The Fed may no longer consider the case for pushing up the Funds rate to be as compelling as it appeared even a month ago. The advance GDP figures for the second quarter of the year, though now history, contained an important surprise in the accompanying price indices. These showed that the measured rates of inflation were not only much lower than expected, but below levels in the corresponding period a year ago. The evidence is that wage pressures to which the Fed chairman referred in his recent Humphrey-Hawkins Testimony are being largely offset by productivity increases. The US economy is, therefore, able to progress against a backdrop of low and stable inflation.

On the face of it, there is no

urgency for the Fed to raise interest rates. But will interest have to rise at all? Probably not if growth slows. Wishful thinking? Maybe. Companies continue to meet resistance to price rises. Their sales growth is modest and slowing, and much of the expansion in profit margins is from sustained efforts to curb costs. Business investment is already growing at its slowest since the recovery from the last recession. Any weakness in demand could reverse the recent trend of employment. Consumer spending will soften. Increasingly, talk could turn to disinflation and the prospect of relaxation in monetary policy. The bond market will rally on anticipation of these developments. Watch the dollar. The forex markets are as good a guide as any on the outlook for interest rates. At present, the less steady tone of the dollar suggests that pressure for a rate rise is easing.

So what does this imply for gilts? Although the domestic pull is likely to be broadly negative, the external influence could be surprisingly supportive. A return to yields above 8 per cent cannot be ruled out if the Chancellor is perceived to have thrown caution to the wind in his management of either monetary or fiscal policy. Any resurgence in inflation would provoke a similar response. The risks are clear. Whether they materialise is another matter. Meanwhile, the favourable trend in US Treasuries is likely to set a positive tone in the gilt market. Greater uncertainty may require a widening in yield differentials, but is unlikely to prevent the market participating in a US-inspired rally.

MIKE LENHOFF AND SIMON RUBINSOHN
Capital Management

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET													
1995 High Low		Mkt cap (million)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E	1996 High Low		Mkt cap (million)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E
148	132	14.80 AFA Systems	148	+15			180	137	28.20 Lancashire En	155	...	3.2	14.2
134	109	16.00 AMCO Corp	112	-2	5.6	15.7	200	210	15.20 Lawrence	260	...	0.8	
70	70	15.40 AND Int'l Pubg	60	...			3750	3500	60.70 Lawrie Group	3250	...	2.7	13.7
58	18	2.37 Abacus Recruit	43	...			290	255	46.90 Le Riches Srs	283	...	7.1	15.3
161	115	24.00 Active Imaging	131	-5			15	12	0.60 Life Numbers	12	-1		
210	123	29.50 A to Z Grady	200	-5	3.8	15.6	6	2	0.16 Life Numbers Wts	5	-1		
204	7	17.50 Arizon Gold	17	+3	38.0		85	85	1.38 London Asia Pk	85	...		
214	13	6.06 Albemarle & Bd	50	+5			70	55	30.80 Lonan Gp	470	...	17.2	25.5
58	33	8.64 Alzyme	52	...			3464	1924	2.55 Lullington Wts	274	...	30.9	
24	12	8.86 Alpha Omikron	42	...			44	4	1.25 Lullington Wts	44	...		
480	390	12.50 Amco Int'l	480	...	4.8	12.9	15	15	0.26 Lullington Wts	15	...		
985	885	5.78 Amco Int'l	975	-10	8.3		135	15	10.10 Mars & O'Shea	17	...	2.4	23.0
121	48	36.50 Anson	50	-1			125	110	10.80 Marine & Merc S	90	...		
9	8	1.89 Anson Prop	8	...			112	112	2.51 Marine & Merc S	112	...		
81	63	32.90 Ast. Central	38	+5			99	79	43.30 Megalonia Wts	84	...		
141	68	22.20 Ast. Central	138	...			113	85	7.18 Mellek	103	...	3.0	14.7
63	55	1.08 Ast. Central	63	...			475	45	30.90 Memory Corp	51	...		
135	123	41.30 BATH Adv Comms	130	+3			22	18	4.56 Metroland Films	19	...		
45	38	3.37 Bellco	38	...			235	156	16.70 Moorpark	220	+10	2.7	18.9
150	140	0.99 Bonness Les	145	...	3.9	7.1	200	67	7.42 Mountcashet	98	+3	20.4	
70	70	10.40 Bowles & Co	70	+10			203	148	30.30 Mulberry Group	153	...		
503	240	56.70 Broadbank	473	...			89	53	16.40 MultiMedia	57	-1		
125	116	13.30 CA Coutts Hlgs	125	+2	11.8		19	17	1.25 NECA	17	...		
130	116	1.04 CCI Hlgs	130	...	7.2		340	285	23.40 HMF Gp	310	-5	3.3	
110	110	0.13 CCI Founder Shs	110	...			210	175	14.10 Resh (Wm)	200	+5	4.2	8.6
213	95	4.86 Celsa Int	170	-2	1.8	14.1	360	360	8.70 Reel Club	340	...	2.9	12.6
75	55	7.76 Caledonian Tr	65	...			470	200	11.10 Nelson Cobbold	405	-10	1.7	20.2
31	2	2.30 Calsat & Wain	24	-10	7.9		165	118	48.80 Network Tech	157	+14		
14	10	1.84 Calsat & Wain	14	+5			101	65	1.00 Norcity II	53	...		
43	29	19.30 Card Clear	43	+5	0.7	19.9	73	63	1.00 Norcity II	73	+2		35.0
108	91	9.63 Catalyst Ship	95	+2	8.2		76	51	5.84 Nth Palm Wts	51	...		
72	58	3.17 Cassidy Bus	58	...	6.5		8	8	0.13 Nth Palm Wts	8	...		
48	48	2.08 Censidy W	48	...	2.3		115	111	17.50 Nth Palm Wts	111	...	1.3	32.1
21	16	6.96 Celsa Int	21	+2	1.6		147	85	17.80 Old English Pub	116	...	1.1	50.7
1325	6550	79.70 Celtic	1325	+1000			136	84	12.80 Omnicore	116	+5	0.6	
1275	6450	15.80 Celsa Pl Shs	1275	+1000			75	43	12.30 Ormrod	50	+2		
126	109	15.80 CI Comms(IV)	118	...	2.8		123	66	24.60 Optical Care	106	...		
86	61	7.38 Charwell Int	65	...			34	1	26.40 Pacific Media	24	...		
100	53	116.10 Chelsea Village	90	+2			263	43	3.00 Pacific Med Pl	235	...		
185	173	19.10 Circle Comms	176	+1			125	174	50.60 Pan Andean Res	125	+25		
148	105	41.30 Circle Comms	148	...	5.6	11.2	478	180	2.00 Pan Andean Res	200	...	3.1	
110	110	0.99 Celsa Int	110	...	63.6		445	380	93.40 Pcl City	385	+15		
35	28	13.90 ClubPartners	33	...			337	100	52.80 Philippine Gd	213	...		
510	500	12.00 Com de Pl Fin	500	...			184	107	28.80 Polymerica	184	+27		
100	100	0.25 Com Tech A Pyl	100	...			819	19	0.38 Portland Fds Wts	14	...		
100	100	0.25 Com Tech B Pyl	100	...			2	2	0.38 Portland Fds Wts	2	...		
225	225	0.17 Com Tech C Pyl	225	...			365	400	0.38 Portland Fds Wts	500	...		
44	37	8.80 Consistat Tr	40	...	5.0	10.0	105	105	0.38 Portland Fds Wts	105	...		
86	58	15.70 Conroy Gals	85	...	20.0	16.4	305	180	34.50 Prism Rel	260	...		
86	58	2.49 Conroy Gals	85	...	3.8		67	42	5.66 Rigelzn Zm	63	...	2.5	39.5
109	57	23.00 Cross Int	64	...			140	43	5.55 Rigelzn Zm	124	+9		
63	43	22.20 Cron Products	49	...			18	16	1.61 Rigelzn Zm	18	...		0.6
377	1257	27.85 DBS Management	377	+5	4.1	11.0	98	63	4.03 Rigelzn Zm	79	+2		
36	32	3.00 Deloitte Inc	32	+5			475	5	2.74 Rigelzn Zm	475	...		
75	61	3.00 David Glaz	61	...	10.2	8.3	14	14	0.38 Rigelzn Zm	14	...		
1700	860	90.70 Dawson Hlgs	1625	...	2.5	14.3	163	151	19.00 SCI Ent	153	+7		
375	305	34.40 Dicom	311	...	21	77.3	31	31	3.19 SCI Satellite	31	...		
111	78	16.20 Digital Amm'n	110	+25			126	31	15.40 SCI Satellite	126	...	4.5	26.5
77	60	13.10 Distek	70	...			75	38	15.40 SCI Satellite	75	...	3.4	12.7
137	48	8.41 Easym	59	+7			31	30	15.40 SCI Satellite	31	...		
188	148	41.60 Elex Retail Shs	198	+25			39	23	14.10 Scott Pickford	33	-1		
200	85	57.40 Electrolux	85	-2			68	78	10.40 Scott Pickford	68	...		
115	61	21.00 Elex Retail Shs	115	...			320	270	14.90 Scott Pickford	320	...	5.3	
125	120	5.62 Euro Sales Pl	125	...			70	65	13.90 Selector	68	...		
475	325	1.41 Fairfax	445	...			60	25	1.34 Seal Sealing	25	-10		
145	41	2.52 Fairway	41	...			174	161	1.34 Seal Sealing	174	...		
114	106	41.00 Fibernet	111	+6			5	3	20.90 Sierra Mounts	172	...		
65	58	2.90 Fieldbus	58	...			824	824	8.24 Sierra Bus Serv	824	...		
360	75	5.77 Fiat Fields	245	...			1	1	0.29 Sierra Bus Wts	1	...		
140	140	14.00 Financial	140	...	25.8		91	85	5.51 Slati Slati Sp	85	...	3.7	14.1
183	168	34.10 Fiat Int'l	168	-2			585	520	128.90 South News	535	+5		
245	188	3.80 Flomex	210	+5			68	50	68.00 Southern Vectis	68	...		
343	253	7.52 Floral Pl	283	+5	0.4	13.3	299	225	32.90 Stawell	264	...		
183	138	1.00 Forman	138	...	1.8	20.8	179	143	17.90 Stawell	179	...	39.0	
35	14	115.70 Fresques	31	-2			42	40	3.65 Union	40	-5		18.4
143	93	7.98 Fulling House	133	-3	2.3	11.8	458	373	6.50 Unilever	383	...	1.3	14.2
12	12	35.70 Gals	12	...			201	147	20.20 Unilever	195	...	3.3	20.5
21	16	23.30 Gold Mines Sand	18	...			179	124	47.10 Unilever Gp	179	...		
12	8	5.36 Gold Mines Sand Wts	10	...			650	120	10.00 Viverron	355	+75		
152	9	2.70 Greenwits	9	...			428	232	8.65 Voss	300	...		
145	145	33.00 Gullon	145	...	3.4	12.8	20	13	3.58 Walkem	19	...	3.8	9.7
199	169	22.20 HFT Entert	199	+10	64.6		180	160	4.88 Walkem	180	...		
41	18	2.40 Hanson	20	+2			170	165	17.00 Walkem	170	...		
68	53	2.69 Hal Fin	60	-3	5.6	11.3	392	60	392.60 Wacodex	79	...		
65	50	6.37 Hercules Prop	50	...			250	143	25.00 Wacodex	143	...		
275	155	1.27 Hercules	275	...	2.6	17.0	42	40	3.65 Union	40	...		
255	180	10.70 Hewitts A	245	...	9.9	15.1	458	373	6.50 Unilever	383	...	1.3	14.2
1320	1320	1.00 Hlgs	128	...	2.4		201	147	20.20 Unilever	195	...	3.3	20.5
90	65	0.82 Huntingdon	70	...			179	124	47.10 Unilever Gp	179	...		
297	190	30.40 IES	280	+10	0.4		650	120	10.00 Viverron	355	+75		
380	175	3.71 IES Warrants	180	+5			428	232	8.65 Voss	300	...		
12	8	18.90 Int'l Int'l Warrants	12	...			20	13	3.58 Walkem	19	...	3.8	9.7
134	105	12.70 Indul Radio	127	...			180	160	4.88 Walkem	180	...		
88	63	11.40 Inner Workings	68	-5			170	165	17.00 Walkem	170	...		
89	63	15.20 Interlocking Engr	89	...			392	60	392.60 Wacodex	79	...		
568	108	10.10 Interlocking Engr	568	+10	5.3	11.8	250	143	25.00 Wacodex	143	...		
168	108	3.85 IOC Int'l	168	...			42	40	3.65 Union	40	...		
103	83	4.08 Jazm	100	+2			458	373	6.50 Unilever	383	...	1.3	14.2
320	280	21.50 Jennings Broc	292	...	2.7	21.7	201	147	20.20 Unilever	195	...	3.3	20.5
74	48	5.48 Jordie	61	-1		11.9	179	124	47.10 Unilever Gp	179	...		
3	3	0.35 Just Group Wts	3	...			650	120	10.00 Viverron	355	+75		
125	93	39.10 KS Bromadix	93	...			428	232	8.65 Voss	300	...		
160	133	45.10 La Saza	136	+3			20	13	3.58 Walkem	19	...	3.8	9.7

Tobacco had a bad weekend. Late on Friday, a Florida jury unexpectedly found that Lucky Strike cigarettes had been a dangerous and defective product. US tobacco stocks fell a tenth in after-hours trading on Wall Street. After unimpressive attempts, this was only the second time a US manufacturer had been ruled liable for its customer's lung cancer. A day later Cigar, America's popular wonder horse, ended its winning streak on the racetrack, despite being odds-on to win. It seemed symbolic.

Tobacco groups are trying to put the Grady Carter judgment in perspective. The only other case they lost was reversed on appeal. They claim strong legal grounds to appeal this one. It only covered smoking of Lucky Strike between 1947 and 1972, and might not set a big precedent.

Those who bought US tobacco stocks at the bottom may well make a short-term profit. Britain's BAT Industries, which added American Tobacco, maker of Lucky Strike, to its Brown & Williamson brands in 1994, was not traded in Friday's panic. Its shares will fall this morning, but probably not so far.

Like other cigarette makers in America, BAT has used its formidable cash flow to diversify. It made £1 billion operating profit from insurance last year, enough to pay most of its dividend. Philip Morris is now one of the world's biggest food companies. Cigarette sales are still growing fast in Eastern Europe and some Asian markets. Big Tobacco

No smoke without fire on tobacco's bumpy road



GRAHAM SEAL

also has a formidable defensive arsenal to withstand the siege. This year, it won a victory when a US class action was ruled out of court. As companies' lowly stock market ratings illustrate, however, there is a feeling that even Byzantium must eventually fall to the irresistible forces pressing at its gates. New documents might supply heavier artillery. And if enough health authorities and dying smokers try, they reason, someone will eventually find the weak spot.

The Carter case is one of 200 round America being prepared by campaigners as an alternative to the class action. They are not motivated merely by attempts to secure cash for sick clients. Mr Carter's lawyer sees the lawsuits as a powerful "weapon of social change".

In a land that takes libertarianism to the point of perversity, moralistic witchhunts are equally traditional. Persecution of the quarter of Americans who smoke is the equivalent of McCarthyism in the 1950s or prohibition a generation earlier. The temperance lobby won its ban, though that failed. Two proponents of McCarthy's thought purge went on to rule the White House for 14

years. McCarthyism was fear. Cigarettes indisputably kill many people, even if argument rages on how physically addictive they are.

When some of the world's largest, most pragmatic and otherwise respectable corporations find that their 400-year-old product is lethal, there are deals to be struck. But when a moral crusade meets self-defence, compromise is hard to find.

The battle against smoking could have three objectives: to compensate victims and pay for their treatment; to persuade the young not to take up smoking and smokers to give up; to close the industry down and end the dangers to health. These aims can

be contradictory. As finance ministers know, if you want cash for victims and treatment, you need a living industry making money to tap, much as an ant milk an aphid. Otherwise the industry might disappear, as US (though not British) asbestos firms have. It would not be hard to orphan tobacco liabilities.

Government health warnings, in place for a generation to cut demand, have given the industry its strongest legal protection. Without them, it might have been sued to extinction in the West. Campaigners logically also oppose potentially less dangerous new products, such as RJ Reynolds' smokeless "Eclipse", and make no distinction between cigarettes and pipes and cigars, which are statistically less lethal. Forcing Big Tobacco out of the business by lawsuits would not stop people smoking unless sales were banned. Little tobacco would fill the gap.

In America, at least, it is not hard to outlaw tobacco. If cigarettes were classified as a nicotine delivery mechanism, the Food and Drug Administration could hardly pass them as safe. But, as Americans know from the 1920s, prohibition would breed crime and draw young

people to other dangerous drugs. Already, there are signs of a backlash against anti-smoking warnings.

Given those tobacco warnings, vast sales of tobacco as a drug of choice cannot be blamed only on clever marketing or addiction. Cigarettes help confidence-starved adolescents of all ages to cope. Addiction studies claim smoking aids mental alertness and concentration. This column required a pipe. If car drivers all smoked them, road rage should disappear overnight. If only to be replaced by passenger rage.

Sadly, people will continue to want mood-affecting drugs. Experience suggests none will be safe in long-term use. Rules to curb smoking should recognise this. Tony Blair favours a straight ban on cigarette advertising. In America, brand leader Philip Morris has suggested a tougher law against sales to young people, along with bans on vending machines, small packets, posters near schools and promotional material. These suit brand leaders and state monopolies.

To phase out conventional cigarettes, sales might also be banned to anyone born after today, or the beginning of 1990. That would give time and incentive to develop tobacco products or even other drugs with fewer deadly side-effects.

Far more likely, the war of attrition — and steady profits — will continue. As pessimists might note, the coming generation of leaders was born when smoking among pregnant women was at its height.

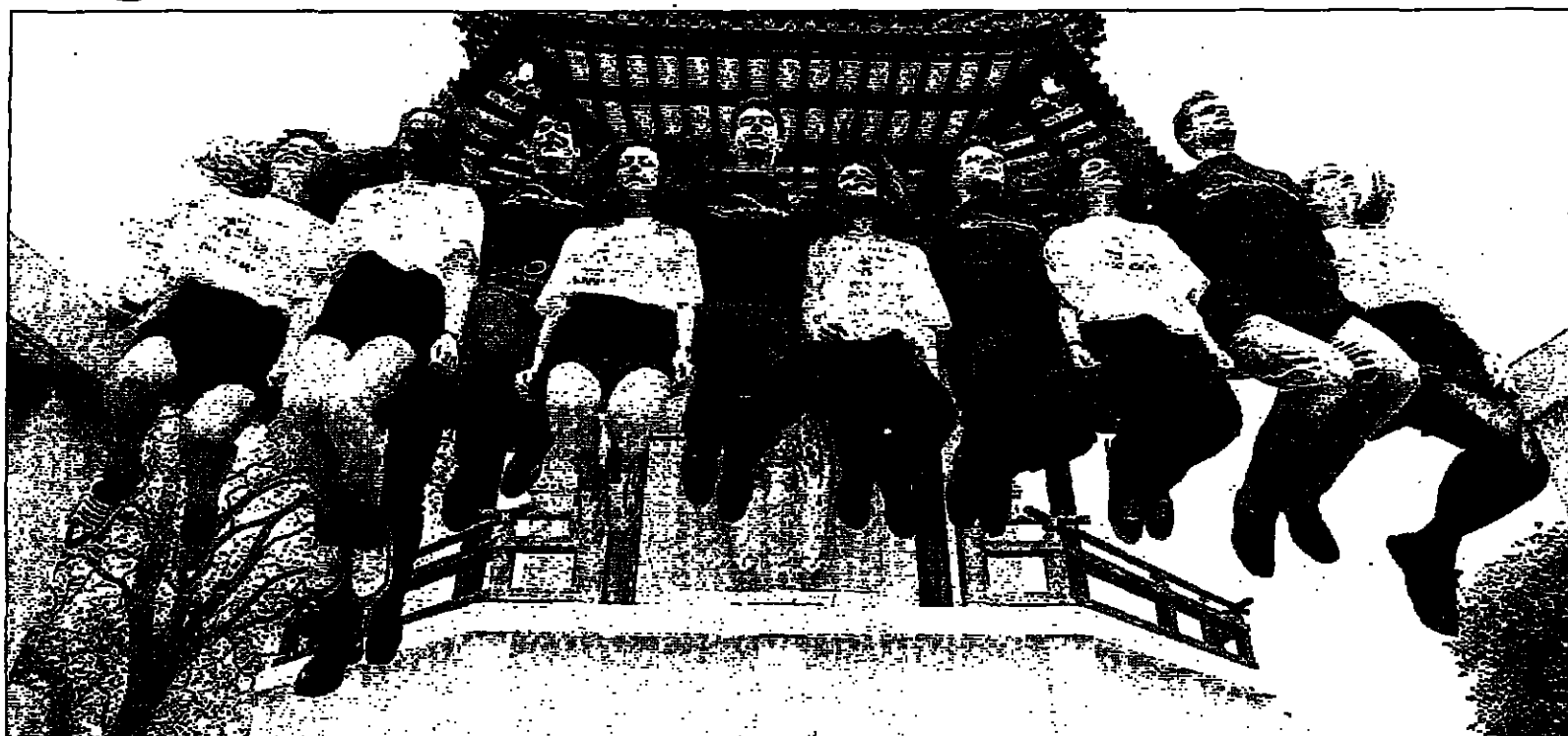
Alasdair Murray on initiatives from a nation with more to it than Guinness

Spring in the step of the Irish

At first glance, *Riverdance* may seem a more natural candidate for a Laurence Olivier award than for accolades about its role in regenerating the Irish economy. The show, a blend of traditional and modern Irish music and dance, has been a huge hit in the West End, as well as spawning a chart-topping single, a best-selling video and countless showbiz stories.

However, Maria O'Sullivan, project manager for Lir FM, an Irish radio station bidding for the latest London FM franchise, is convinced that *Riverdance* has had a more lasting cultural and economic impact, paving the way for the development of businesses such as her own. She says: "You can't underestimate the importance of *Riverdance*. It has had a huge promotional impact."

The Irish are the largest ethnic minority in Britain. Although putting a number on the Irish in Britain is complicated by their tendency quickly to blend into the rest of the population, recent estimates are of six million first-generation or second-generation Irish. However, until the past couple of years, there has been no real attempt to tap into this huge potential market, beyond the creation of a few forbidding pubs. In contrast, the US has for many years had businesses chasing



Riverdance is seen as setting the stage for Irish broadcasters coming to the UK to try to attract Britons and the UK's Irish community alike

the "green dollars" of the 44 million self-proclaimed Irish Americans.

Suddenly, however, businesses have decided to chase the "green pound" in the UK. RTE, the Irish broadcaster, is helping to back Tara, an Irish-themed cable station, and there have been two consortiums bidding to run an Irish-

style radio station on the latest London FM franchise. The Irish financial services sector has also come looking for new custom in the UK, and Irish travel companies have tapped into the growing desire of the Irish community to make regular trips home.

These businesses are trying to take advantage of some fundamental changes in the Irish community in the UK. Until recently, Irish immigrants arriving in the UK were often impoverished and poorly educated. Given the uneasy political relations between the two countries, they also tended to keep a low profile in their adopted country.

However, the Irish Republic has changed dramatically in the past decade, becoming a more outward-looking, self-confident nation, and Irish immigrants arriving in the UK reflect that change.

Harry Doherty, secretary of the Irish Club of Great Britain, says: "Many of the Irish population in the UK are now graduates and professionals. They are not going abroad out of necessity and in the UK they are coming out of their shells and reclaiming their heritage."

Ms O'Sullivan says: "The Irish community is more and more organised. It has a

greater sense of its own voice." *Riverdance* and other Irish cultural contributions, from U2 to the Irish film industry, have had an important role in this transformation. Irishness has become far more marketable throughout Europe. Irish bars, well-designed and friendly, are springing up across Europe at about one a week.

The Irish Republic has become a popular tourist destination. Cathal O'Doherty, who is helping to establish the Tara cable station, says: "Ireland has become much more open to the world. Dublin is now officially competing with Prague, Amsterdam and Paris as a 'cool' weekend destination."

The increasing cultural importance of Ireland has been matched by its remarkable economic performance over the past few years. The country's GDP grew by more than 10 per cent last year, the fastest rate in the industrialised world, and it is predicted to continue growing by about 6.5 per cent this year. By the end of this year, GDP will have risen by about a quarter since the start of 1994, with the number of people in work up by 122,000. A far stronger Irish corpo-

rate sector is keen to flex its muscles in new markets. Inevitably, the UK with its linguistic and geographical ties with the Irish Republic has proved an attractive destination for new investment. It also has the advantage of having an increasingly affluent Irish population.

The Tara cable station is being launched next month and aims to reach ten million homes over the next few years. The channel is majority-owned by United International Holdings, a cable company based in the US that has invested £10 million in the project. United is convinced that not only is there a definable Irish market waiting to be reached, but that plenty of advertisers are willing to buy airtime.

Mr O'Doherty says: "There are a lot of potential advertisers in the financial services, drinks and travel sectors who are keen to reach a niche market this way."

Tara is also being backed by RTE, the Irish television station, which will provide most of the programming for it. RTE has an annual programming spend of £115 million, similar to the prospective spend of the new Channel 5 in the UK, and Tara believes that it will be able to attract a broad

audience through the quality of its programmes. However, Mr O'Doherty emphasises that the station will not be aimed just at the Irish community. "It will provide a broad mix of entertainment with an Irish flavour rather than simply trying to reproduce RTE in the UK," he said. "We hope to attract other viewers who have an interest in Irish culture."

Lir FM, the potential Irish radio station in London, has a similar strategy. Lir — backed by three Irish radio companies and a private UK investor — hopes to tap into the estimated 600,000 people of Irish descent in the capital, but will also try to tempt the thousands who enjoy Irish entertainment such as *Riverdance*.

Only time will tell whether ventures such as Tara and Lir succeed. However, Jennie Halsall, a media consultant for *Riverdance*, believes that the optimism generated by the show will prove infectious. "Until *Riverdance* came along, Irish business was almost entirely associated with Guinness," she says. "But now, there is a recognition that there are major opportunities in entertainment, food, drink and media. One day, Irish-themed businesses will be huge."

RADIO CHOICE

When Wolves settled scores

Games That Changed Football. Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm.

In a way, Byron Butler, former BBC football correspondent, was duty bound to fit this programme into his series. Last Monday night he dealt with Hungary's victory over England in 1953 — the home team's first-ever defeat by a continental team at Wembley. Revenge, though not officially an international level, was nonetheless sweet when it came the following year. What is more, it proved to be the catalyst that helped to bring about the birth of the European Cup in 1955. Hungary, which included half of the Hungary team, played Wolves — was one of several friendlies Wolves played against top continental clubs. They won 3-2, two of the goals being scored by Roy Swinbourne. He is one of the players Butler interviews tonight.

Composer of the Week. Radio 3, 10am.

Not a day goes by without some Beethoven on Radio 3. He is the current composer of the week. In my book, he is composer not just of the week but the month and even the year. However, today's Radio 3 listings suggest that the network has got cold feet about honouring the genius from Bonn. I quote from today's Radio 3 schedule: "11.30pm. Composer of the Week: Stravinsky." But that is enough impishness from me for one day. The simple truth is that the genius of the late night Stravinsky programmes are just repeats. Perhaps Radio 3 should call them *Composer of Last Week*. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Kevin Greening 11.30 Radio Roadshow live from the beach in Weymouth 12.30pm Lisa Farnon 3.00 Dave Pearce and Newsbeat and at 6.30 The Nightly Dance Jam 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 in Concert Phoenix 9.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturges 4.00am Clive Wain

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Aud Soren 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Steve Wright at the Movies 7.30 Malcolm Laycock 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 On the Air A new series with Sheila Tracy and the BBC Big Band under Barry Forgie (16) 10.30 The Jazzmen, and 11.00 Peace For Thought 12.05am Sue McManis 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.25 The Magazine with Dana Miller 12.00 Susanah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto Barber (Cello Concerto) 3.00 Jamie Crook 5.00 Classic Newswatch 6.30 Susanah Simons (Cello Sonata No. 1 in B flat major) 7.00 Celebrity Choice (r) 8.00 Evening Concert. MacCormac (Concerto Overture). The Land of the Mountain and the Sea (r) David Foulis (Soprano No. 3 in B flat major) (Scottish Fantasy). Trad (Auld) Scottish Songs from the Scots Musical Museum 10.40 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Rasmussen 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Deely 7.00 Sports Zone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Francis (Sonata in A); Infante (Trocen dances and dances); J. H. Rasmussen (Concerto Grosso in B flat); Telemann (Gulliver Suite); Rossini (Overture: The Italian Ladder); Erwin Schulhoff (Hot Sonata). 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041); Donizetti (Favinta del re - Spillo gentil, La Favonta, Act 4); Villa-Lobos (Bachiana Brasileira No. 4); Debussy, orch Capric (La Boite à Joujou). 10.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven. See Choice 11.00 Edinburgh International Festival. Live from the Queen's Hall. Boje Skovhus, baritone, and Helmut Daufeldt, piano, perform songs by Schubert, Schumann and Strauss 11.50 Festival Stochess Colin Beel series which explores the development of the opera house in Edinburgh 12.10pm Concert Part 2 1.00 Proms Chamber Music 1996. Peter Donohoe and Martin Ruscoe, pianos. Mozart, an Greg (Fantasia in C minor, K475); Debussy, ar Ravel (Nagages; Fables, Nocturnes); Lutoslawski (Variations on a Theme of Paganini); Granger (Fantasy on Garshwin's Poetry and Best). 2.05 The Ulster Orchestras, under En Shao With Torleif Theodor, cello; Holst (Egdon Heath); Dvorak (Cello Concerto in B minor); Ives (Symphony No 2)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today and 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 The Changing Forest. Dennis Potter's view of the Forest of Dean, read by Robert Glenister (1/5) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 North of Wetherford. The first of three topical discussion programmes comes from Belfast. With Sean Rafferty and guests 10.00 News; Big Bang (FM), with Joe Nelson 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 10.50 Test Match Special: England v Pakistan (LW). The final day's play from Headingley 11.30 Inside History (FM) (5/6) (r) 12.00 News You and Yours (FM), with Chris Choi 12.25pm Brain of Britain 1996 (FM) 12.58 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (FM) (r) 1.55 Shipping 1.40 Test Match Special (LW) 2.00 News; True Blue (FM), by Joe Simons and Joly Pail The story of an Indian woman's struggle to become a Toy MP With Susha Bhudhar, Atab Sachak, William Boyd and Vanessa Rosenfield (r) 2.00 Test Match Special (LW) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift (FM). 4.00 News (FM) 4.05 Kaleidoscope (FM). Tim Marlow returns to a recording of Arvo Part's Luty

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour, 5.30am. Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Poems by Post 7.30 Andy Kershaw 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 The Vintage Chart Show 9.15 Good Looking 9.45 Music Through the Ages 10.05 Business 10.15 Anything Goes 10.45 Sport 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.30 Omnibus 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Andy Kershaw 3.05 Outlook 3.30 John Peel 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Take Five 6.30 News in German 7.30 Britain Today 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Multitrack 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Legal Rights, Legal Warnings 10.45 The World of Computers 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.10am Take Five 12.15 Record News 12.20 Multitrack 1.30 Global Concerts 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Meridian 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 8.00 Nick Sharratt 12.00 Susanah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto Barber (Cello Concerto) 3.00 Jamie Crook 5.00 Classic Newswatch 6.30 Susanah Simons (Cello Sonata No. 1 in B flat major) 7.00 Celebrity Choice (r) 8.00 Evening Concert. MacCormac (Concerto Overture). The Land of the Mountain and the Sea (r) David Foulis (Soprano No. 3 in B flat major) (Scottish Fantasy). Trad (Auld) Scottish Songs from the Scots Musical Museum 10.40 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

8.00am Russ 11.00 Jano 8.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dean 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Rendal Lee Ross

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

City guns go quiet

Will anyone in the City celebrate the Glorious Twelfth? Sir Rocco Forte, who was shaving before a phosmet shot on the Yorkshire Moors when he heard that Granada had put in a bid for his hotel group, won't be. His secretary said: "He's away, and he won't be shooting." Gavin Casey, chief executive of the Stock Exchange, says he will be too busy in his new job. Christopher Rodriguez, gun-wielding chief executive of Bradford & Bingley, and Sir Alick Rankin, Scottish & Newcastle's chairman, will also be too busy to shoot.

NOT such a Glorious Twelfth

for staff at the Pension Ombudsman's office. The DSS has announced that it plans to cut the salaries of the ombudsman's investigators by up to a third, reducing senior employees' salaries from about £31,000 to £21,000.

A dry number

CHRISTIE'S wine sales amassed a record £17 million in 1995-96 season, making it the most successful in the wine department's 30-year history — and we have a fair idea why. A mysterious buyer from the US, who was among the highest bidders, picked up a bill of about £50,000. But when Paul Bowker, head of Christie's wine department, took the East Coast call, he could

hardly hear the caller. "It was one of the most expensive wines, and I knew it was early in the morning over there," explains Bowker. "When I told him I was having difficulty, he said he'd try taking his phone outside the show."

PETER ROBINSON, the former chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, who lost his job over allegations that he borrowed the company Range Rover and decorated his £450,000 Kent home with the help of Woolwich decorators, is adding fuel to rumours that the Man from Pru has been in touch to ask his sage advice. But would the Pru be so unwise as to approach the man who branded new Wool-

wich savers "carpetbaggers", and risk alienating the board of the building society it is believed to want to buy?

Executive action

WHAT do you do if you are a busy chief executive whose train is cancelled the day after your company's results meeting in the capital? Malcolm Jones, of Bensons Crisps, who was furious with British Rail for its "poor communication" after last week's train crash, taxed from Euston to Heathrow, then took the shuttle to Manchester. He called his partner from his mobile, to make sure she could meet him at the airport. Nice work.

MORAG PRESTON

JP 11.15.50

A heart-rending, mind-blowing weekend

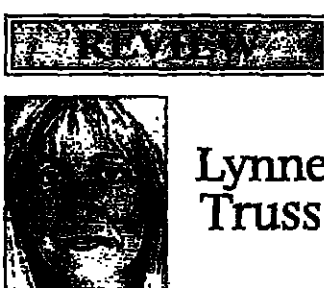
The way to imagine the brain, apparently, is as a blamance inside a biscuit tin. This helpful image was provided by a neurosurgeon in the course of a drama. Some Kind of Life (ITV) last night. It's an image which will live with me for a considerable time. No amount of asking "How about a Quality Street tin?" or "What if the tin is lined with dollops?" will ever quite dispel its power.

Jane Horrocks's husband Steve (Ray Stevenson) had suffered brain damage in a bike crash; and the way to imagine the effect (said the surgeon) was that his biscuit tin, containing the blamance, had been crushed at a wall. She gulped; the audience gulped; and some of us looked very glutinous indeed. Every time we saw Steve after that, we could hear the crash of thin metal on brick, and imagine his brain all squashed up in one corner of his head.

Some Kind of Life was the sort of drama I usually can't abide. Stories about heroic domestic carers are customarily based on real people, and are thus not only constrained by the facts, but written and performed to flatter. Julie Walters is often crucially involved. From the start of last night's compelling film, however, one felt in safe hands with terrific acting, great photography, and everything ringing true dramatically. Horrocks, as Alison, ticked the check-list of predictable emotions — disbelief, rage, hope, despair — while circles darkened around her eyes, but when she cried, she really meant it. Steve recovered enough to call everybody "Stupid", but he would never remember about being Alison's husband. "Do you love me?" Alison asked him, finally, over a romantic dinner he didn't understand. He nodded vaguely. "Yes. Is Rosie coming tomorrow?"

So finally Alison did a most remarkable thing. She stopped hoping. In the last ten minutes of the film, having ensured that her now infantile husband was comfortable and cared-for, she put her little son in a taxi and left home. Steve didn't need her. None of this was explained in big speeches: Kay Mellor's masterly script was understated from beginning to end. Alison's decision was the most shocking, but as clear as light. Slipping on the Yorkshire lane where her "real Steve" had crashed, she placed flowers on the road. Every body knew it: the real Steve was simply never coming back.

Not a particularly happy subject for a Monday morning, but don't blame me: blame the blamance. Steve was no longer Steve because he had lost Steve's memories, just as he had lost his. The film's brilliant 1993 Screenplay, Black



Lynne Truss

Daisies for the Bride (BBC2) repeated last night had lost their identities in the blizzard of Alzheimer's. "The person that you know is no longer there, but the shell is there," said a relative in Black Daisies, in voice-over. "It's like a bereavement," said another. "It is a bereavement. It's horrible." Meanwhile the women fall real Alzheimer's patients, with real past lives beautifully evoked by

Harrison's bridal songs for each talked nonsense, drummed their heels, rolled their tongues, repeated "I love you, I love you." "She was ever so clever," said a relative of Kathleen's, heart-breaking. Memory serves a double tragedy here: a tragedy Kathleen is no longer clever; a tragedy somebody can remember when she was.

Anybody interested in the fallibility of the brain had a cuddling weekend of it, actually. With Ken Campbell's Brainspotting (Channel 4) also devoting an hour to the investigation of consciousness — with lots of shots of a detached brain bubbling in a blue-lit tank, and a surgeon drawing film black pencil lines on Campbell's own, well-shaped bald head. "Where in my brain do I reside?" he wanted to know, but various philosophers and scientists failed to help him with an exact location. Apparently the Ancient Greeks barked up the wrong tree completely, fancying

that we existed in our diaphragms, the seat of breath. This mistake is understandable, however, once you remember the Greeks had no timeframe to help with the frame of reference.

Helpfully, Professor Susan Greenfield pictured the brain as a system of energies grouping and regrouping in different areas, like emergency services on a Saturday night. This explanation makes sense of a few everyday puzzles, actually, such as the ability to drive 40 miles without noticing, or that irritating thing when you run upstairs and then can't remember why. But while I am happy to think that other people's consciousness may work like this, I agree with Campbell's less sophisticated theory that there is a "little gear" inside my own head, whom I rely on. Remember, Dannie Absie's poem about a real-life brain sur-

gery patient, who intones thrillingly on the operating table: "Leave my soul alone? Now that was a little greasy speaking, or my name's not what's it."

So, What a fascinating weekend. Low on mindless entertainment, but high on mindlessness. Seeking alternative stimulation, I watched the first part of Stephen King's The Stand (BBC1) but it was rubbish. The preamble should take 90 minutes, even if the ultimate subject is the annihilation of America's population by a virulent flu. Atchoo. The story kept switching locations ("Queens, New York"), and discovering more people coughing, but there is a limit to the number of times this is interesting. Still, somebody quoted Yeats, which was nice. Just a shame he called him "Yeats". "Things fall apart, the centre does not hold," he said. Sounds like what happens to the little gezer, when he's thrown against a wall.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (47367)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (2032541)
- 10.20 Della Smith's Summer Collection (i) (Celex) (7659812)
- 9.50 Gourmet Ireland (s) (5038312)
- 10.20 Florida Folk: That's Showbusiness (252141)
- 10.45 News (Celex) and weather (5768314)
- 10.50 Cricket: Scotland Test: England v Pakistan (7739390)
- 12.00 News (Celex) (1782928)
- 12.05pm The Alphabet Game (4955831)
- 12.35 Neighbours (7693034)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Celex) (40454)
- 1.30 Regional News and weather (4500522)
- 1.35 Cricket (73142305)
- 5.35 Neighbours (448760)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Celex) (831)
- 6.30 Regional News magazines (183)
- 7.00 The Good Food Show (5473)
- 7.30 The Rantzen Report: Neighbourhood Rage. This week's topic is the increase in disputes between neighbours (2/3) (367)
- 8.00 EndEnders. Lorrans moves into the garage for good. Alan has a surprise visitor at the night club (Celex) (s) (1893)
- 8.30 Oh Doctor Beeching! Part Love Two new animals are greeted with mixed emotions (1788)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Celex) (1638)
- 9.30 Out of the Blue New boy shows his true colours when he pursues the killer of an Asian owner of a minicab firm. Eric discovers Bruce's Achilles' heel, while Mary finds the adoption process tougher than he thought. With John Duffine, Neil Dugdale, David Montessy, Orla Brady, Peter Wright and Lennie James (Celex) (s) (553947)
- 10.25 The X-Files: Roland. Top scientists at an aerodynamics research laboratory die in mysterious circumstances, with a mentally handicapped janitor the only other person around at the time of the incident. Is the janitor connected to a continuing series of murders? Mulder tries to find out. With David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (518034)
- 11.10 Match of the Seventies. Dennis Waterman introduces the series which mixes classic football action from the 1970s with gossip and pop music of the time. Tonight, the story of the 1977-78 season, with Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest winning the title and Liverpool conquering Europe (982837)
- NORTHERN IRELAND: 11.10 Dublin Horse Show 11.50 Match of the Seventies 12.30am Film: No Room to Run 2.35 Weather
- 1.50 FILM: No Room to Run (1978) On a visit to Sydney, a public relations executive is asked to deliver a batch of contracts to a client. As he hands over the briefcase he is jumped on by two men. Suddenly he finds himself on the run and wanted for murder. He turns to Terry McKenna (Paula Prentiss), the Sydney Opera House PR, for refuge. Directed by Robert Michael Lewis (905727)
- 1.30am Weather (89157)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your recorder to watch a VideoPlus+ channel. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: Cognitive Development (3804270) 6.25 Powers of the President (4591560) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (5149386)
- 7.30 The Family News (5832589) 7.35 Johnson and Friends (141760) 7.45 Lassie (i) (1971947) 8.10 Smurfs: Adventures (5573270) 8.35 To Me... to You (i) (Celex) (s) (6537873) 9.05 Spiderman (203645) 9.25 Start (7665473) 9.50 Puppydog Tales (3263638) 10.00 Playdays (s) (7200218)
- 10.25 Hungarian Grand Prix (s) (465763)
- 11.10 Man in a Sultcase (Celex) (9125812) 12.00 Cricket (s) (65812)
- 1.00pm Model Milla (45002473) 1.15 A-Z of Food (2402470) 1.25 Menus and Music (4508190)
- 1.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5152831) 2.20 Crownswan Paints on Holiday (i) (8742506) 2.45 A Life of Knowledge (4575560) 3.00 News (1871388) 3.05 Natural World (i) (Celex) (s) (1942909) 3.55 News (3456857)
- 4.00 Cartoon (5605744) 4.05 Fudge (s) (3465305) 4.30 I'll Never Work (i) (s) (980) 5.00 Newsround (2085021)
- 5.10 Sara (Celex) (s) (4401251)
- 5.35 Cricket (s) (139706)
- 6.10 The Champions (Celex) (481473)
- 7.00 Seven Ages of Man: Molly Parkin (Celex) (3015)
- 7.30 Edinburgh Nights. The first of the three-weekly reports from the 50th Edinburgh Festival (s) (903)
- 8.00 The Day That Changed My Life: Funny Business. Six years ago, Geoff Schumann gave up everything to pursue his dream of becoming a stand-up comedian (2763)
- 8.30 Wildlife Showcase: The dangers faced on the Masai Mara by a family of warthogs (Celex) (s) (1270)
- 9.00 Modern Times: Years Apart. A film following three couples who defy social convention by choosing to be together despite an age gap of 25 years (Celex) (s) (827473)
- 9.45 Grace. A film chronicling one woman's gradual mental collapse in the face of Alzheimer's disease (Celex) (s) (800638) Followed by Video Nation Shorts
- 10.30 Newsnight (Celex) (117589)
- 11.15 Cricket Highlights (s) (792454) Followed by Weather
- 12.00 Grace Under Fire (Celex) (s) (29688)
- 12.30am The Learning Zone: Open University: Jets and Black Holes (98139) 1.00 Picturing the Modern City (98139) 1.30 Jean-Jacques Rousseau (98139) 2.00 Summer Nights: Music Mestros Collections 1 (13313) 4.00 Languages: España Viva: When in Spain, Diez Terms (76042) 5.30 BBC Focus: RCN Nursing Update (20597)



Bridging the age gap (5.00pm)

CHOICE

- The Day That Changed My Life: Funny Business (BBC2, 8.00pm)
Devotees of the black comedy show, The Real McCoy, may remember an excellent stand-up comedian called Geoff Schumann. Given his size, and he bills himself as "The Big Man of Comedy", he is hard to forget. In this film Schumann reveals that going into the entertainment business was a sudden career move and one he kept secret from his family for a year. In keeping with the expectations of his middle-class father, who wanted him to follow a solid career in the professions, Schumann trained as a teacher. When one day he took his class to see a comedy show and saw the light. Dad is still not reconciled. Drawing on the experiences of other black comedians, Schumann reflects intelligently on his craft and in particular the compromises he feels obliged to make when playing before white audiences.
- Strictly Dancing: Ceroc Channel 4, 8.30pm
Ceroc is not exactly a dance craze, or it would be more widely known, but it is finding increasing favour among 18 to 35-year-olds who want to buck the recent trend and take the floor with a partner. James Cronin, who brought Ceroc to Britain from France, says it is the dance equivalent to fast food. It is easy to learn and there are no formalities. Older viewers may suspect that they have seen something like Ceroc before will be right. Essentially it is the jitterbug, which was imported to Europe by American GIs and developed into the jitter. The first film in a series on "alternative" dances gives a helpful exposition of the Ceroc steps and talks to some of its devotees. If this sample is typical, say are drawn mainly from the ranks of young professionals such as lawyers, sales executives, bankers and lecturers.
- Modern Times: Years Apart BBC2, 9.00pm
Three couples who have found romance despite an apparently unbridgeable age gap come before the camera and let us in on their recipes for happiness. Not that love has always run smoothly. Steven, married to a woman older than his mother and mum has never been able to accept it. She and Steven have not seen each other for five years. In fact, tying the knot with Virginia (who is now 56 to his 39) not only alienated his family but many of his friends. It was very different for Karen, a 17-year-old schoolgirl, when she fell in love with Alan (44). Her parents actually bought her a double bed so that Alan could come to stay. The relationship of Mike, 50, and his wife, Veneta, 18, is professional as well as personal. She is a stripper and he is her manager.
- Homicide: Life on the Street Channel 4, 10.00pm
The Baltimore-based detective series returns with a couple of new characters and promising to make less use of those dizzying jump cuts. Certainly the camerawork seems less intrusive this time, or perhaps we have got used to it. The mainstay of the show are its surface realism and the often barbed interplay between members of the regular team. On its own the detective work is unexceptional and tonight's episode about a warehouse fire which might be murder or arson does not score highly for original plotting. But the focus is more on the detectives than the crime, with a sharp sense of rank and hierarchy. With the elevation of Megan Russell (Isabella Hoffman) above Giardello (Yaphet Kotto), students of political correctness may note that the top three in the division are a black, a woman and another black.

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (4145928)
- 9.25 Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (7683295)
- 9.50 Hope and Gloria (508898)
- 10.20 ITN News (Telex) (5311638)
- 10.25 Regional News (Telex) 10.30 FILM: Fire — Trapped on the 37th Floor (1991) starring Les Majors Directed by Robert Day (4074480)
- 12.20pm Regional News (1781812)
- 12.30 ITN News and weather (6789631)
- 12.55 Shortland Street (5521252)
- 1.25 Coronation Street (5521252)
- 2.00 Home and Away (5742386) 2.25 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (8268134)
- 3.20 ITN News (1888676) 3.25 Regional News (1887947)
- 3.30 Caribou Kitchen (5261283) 3.40 Tots TV (3094928) 3.50 St Tiggyrwen (3039124) 4.00 Scooby Doo (135913)
- 4.15 The Famous Five (501299) 4.45 The Great Dinosaur Train (1329183)
- 5.10 Our House (s) (5732947)
- 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (552183)
- 6.00 Home and Away (i) (48885)
- 6.25 Regional News (128218) 6.50 Let's Go (506725)
- 7.00 The List (5811)
- 7.30 Coronation Street. Des and Claire find that three's a crowd. Sam takes Gary for a ride (Telex) (763)
- 8.00 Classic Cooper. Highlights from the career of the late Tommy Cooper (5689)
- 8.30 Take Your Pick (5096)
- 9.00 In Suspicious Circumstances. Edward Woodward presents dramatisations of two true crime mysteries (Telex) (s) (7305)
- 10.00 News at Ten and weather (53589)
- 10.30 Regional News and weather (734893)
- 10.40 Limited Edition: Rollins Sharples — Painted out of History (i) (122560)
- 11.10 Fire in the Sky (122034)
- 11.40 Inner Jitters: Elaine Heller (1/2) (i) (Telex) (155522)
- 12.10pm Good Advice (i) (5173077)
- 12.40 Bushell on the Box (s) (8129416)
- 1.10 The Big Match — Replayed. Classic football action from 1972 (789880)
- 1.55 The Crime Hour presented by Penny Smith (1805597)
- 2.55 FILM: The Frightened Man (1952, b/w). Crime drama starring Dermot Walsh and Barbara Murray. Directed by John Gilling (4955908)
- 4.05 Jones and Jerry (i) (64030874)
- 5.00 The Times... the Place (i) (60503)
- 5.30 An Invitation to Remember: Charlie Drake (i) (45706)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (17023). Ends at 6.00



The late Tommy Cooper (8.00pm)

HTV WALES

- As HTV WEST except:
- 5.10pm-5.40 The Making of Independence Day (5732947)
- 6.25 Wales Tonight (290218)
- 7.00-7.30 House to House (6111)
- 10.40 People Like Us (122560)
- 11.10 International Rugby Sevens (302763)
- WESTCOUNTRY
- As HTV WEST except:
- 10.30am Murder, She Wrote (5206576)
- 11.25 Side Effects (9454831)
- 12.55pm Coronation Street (5745222)
- 1.25-1.55 Cross Wits (53382638)
- 1.55 Home and Away (58007541)
- 2.25 Wild about Cornwall (87435473)
- 2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1841763)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5732947)
- 6.00 Westcountry Live (58522)
- 7.00-7.30 Celebrity Squares (8611)
- 10.40 Special Report (122580)
- 11.10 Street Story (902744)
- 12.10am Short Story Cinema (5173077)
- CENTRAL
- As HTV WEST except:
- 10.30 Murder, She Wrote (5206576)
- 11.25 Side Effects (9454831)
- 12.55pm Home and Away (5745222)
- 1.55 A Country Practice (1841763)
- 2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (2321741)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5732947)
- 6.25 Central News and Weather (290218)
- 7.00-7.30 Celebrity Squares (8611)
- 10.40 Film: The Preppie Murder (64195305)
- 12.45 The Big Match Replayed (5612329)
- 1.30 The Crime Hour (52329)
- 2.30 Film: The Lawyer (81400)
- As HTV WEST except: 9.50-10.20 Sandokan (5038980) 10.30 Worzel Gummidge (21980)
- 11.00 Doganin (533102) 11.25 Cross Combat (5343589) 11.55 Dungeons and Dragons (725706) 12.55pm Coronation Street (5745222) 1.25 Home and Away (5332858) 1.55 Shortland Street (5307541) 2.25 Blue Heelers (2321741) 5.10 Home and Away (5732947) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (230)
- 6.30 Out of Town (251) 7.00-7.30 Celebrity Squares (8611) 10.40 The Pier (116909)
- 11.05 The Listings (911015) 11.10 Go Fishing (122034) 11.40 Masterclass (155522) 12.10am 104 Invasion TV Special (5173077)
- Starts: 6.35 Hammerman (2772638) 7.00 The Big Bang (533102) 8.00 Castillon (533102) 8.25 The Secret World of Alex Mack (7641833) 9.55 Hanging with Mr Cooper (5880388) 10.20 Pink Panther (2614251) 10.45 Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (5623473) 11.10 Bitter Mice from Mars (589251) 11.35 Insektors (5373760) 11.50 Dennis (5837183) 12.05pm Mark and Mandy (5915096) 12.30 Love and Marriage (71473) 1.00 Slot Meltdown (33154) 1.30 Fishing the Sloe-Black River (58033763) 1.50 Film: A Guide for the Married Man (57339393) 3.30 Beauty and the Beast (57339393) 4.30 Garden Party (57339393) 5.00 Pumper Phuntash (3047)
- Countdown (528) 6.00 Newydd (498947) 6.15 Heno (50454) 7.00 Pobl Y Cwm (13015) 7.25 Baner (57828) 8.00 Cwyl Haul (7831) 8.30 Newydd (3838) 9.00 Ffreder (7878) 9.30 Ffreder (58209) 10.00 Film: City of Hope (5351016) 12.25am Star and the Scientist: Beauty and the Beasts (1797597)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35am Hammerman (i) (2772638)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (53305)
- 9.00 California Dreams (i) (7871034)
- 9.25 The Secret World of Alex Mack (i) (s) (7641833) 9.55 Hanging with Mr Cooper (5880388) 10.20 Pink Panther (s) (2614251) 10.45 Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (5623473) 11.10 Bitter Mice from Mars (589251)
- 11.35 Insektors (i) (5373760) 11.50 Dennis (i) (5837183) 12.05pm Mark and Mandy (i) (5915096) 12.30 Lonely Planet (i) (Telex) (s) (71473) 1.00 Sesame Street (i) (s) (78292)
- 2.00 Laws of Mortal Danger (47218331)
- 2.15 FILM: Woman's World (1954). Sharp comedy about big business and company wives. Directed by Jean Negulesco (Telex) (824742)
- 4.00 Backdate (Telex) (s) (164)
- 4.30 Countdown (Telex) (s) (676)
- 5.00 The Montel Williams Show: I'm Married to a Racist (Telex) (s) (880947)
- 5.45 Snapshots (i) (522270)
- 6.00 The Cosby Show (i) (Telex) (541)
- 6.30 Boy Meets World: Rave On. Eric and Cory combine a party with anniversary celebrations for their parents (Telex) (s) (893)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Telex) (318473)
- 7.55 The Slot (535096)
- 8.00 If I Were Prime Minister (5/6). Tonight's would-be leader is Tommy Sheridan, a Scottish socialist (Telex) (s) (7831)
- 8.30 Strictly Dancing: Ceroc. France in the early 1980s. It attracts as many men as women, not least because learning it is supposed to be easy (Telex) (s) (6636)
- 9.00 Sex and the Scientist: Beauty and the Beasts. (2/3) How women have had an impact on the scientific world (Telex) (s) (5947)
- 10.00 Homicide — Life on the Street: Fire (1/2) A third series of the gritty American detective series begins, with officers at loggerheads (Telex) (s) (8034)
- 11.00 The Cuban Extradictables. Documentary about Cuban exiles imprisoned for minor offences (515812)
- 12.10am Extinguish Drama (s) (4108145)
- 12.30 FILM: Annals (1994). Two former prison guards, one choosing to live with revenge or learning to live with their memories. Directed by Gonzalo Justiniano. In Spanish with English subtitles (s) (594416)
- 2.10 FILM: Banana Ridge (1941, b/w). Delightful farce starring Noel Coward and Robert Helpmann. Directed by Walter C. Mycroft (19577). Ends at 2.45am



Living — French style (8.30pm)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 12.00 The Muppets Take Manhattan (1984) (1978) 2.00pm Roman Holiday (1953) 4.00pm The Godfather Part II (1974) 6.00pm The Godfather (1972) 8.00pm The Godfather Part I (1972) 10.00pm The Godfather Part III (1978) 12.00pm The Godfather Part IV (1978) 2.00pm The Godfather Part V (1978) 4.00pm The Godfather Part VI (1978) 6.00pm The Godfather Part VII (1978) 8.00pm The Godfather Part VIII (1978) 10.00pm The Godfather Part IX (1978) 12.00pm The Godfather Part X (1978) 2.00pm The Godfather Part XI (1978) 4.00pm The Godfather Part XII (1978) 6.00pm The Godfather Part XIII (1978) 8.00pm The Godfather Part XIV (1978) 10.00pm The Godfather Part XV (1978) 12.00pm The Godfather Part XVI (1978) 2.00pm The Godfather Part XVII (1978) 4.00pm The Godfather Part XVIII (1978) 6.00pm The Godfather Part XIX (1978) 8.00pm The Godfather Part XX (1978) 10.00pm The Godfather Part XXI (1978) 12.00pm The Godfather Part XXII (1978) 2.00pm The Godfather Part XXIII (1978) 4.00pm The Godfather Part XXIV (1978) 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Graham Searjeant
on the siege
war over tobacco

BUSINESS

Riverdance leads
the economic
march on Britain

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MONDAY AUGUST 12 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Whitbread to seek links with regionals

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

WHITBREAD, the fast growing brewing and leisure group, is hoping to form a series of strategic alliances with regional brewers as a way of fighting back against the creation of the biggest brewer in Britain with the proposed £200 million merger between Bass and Carlsberg-Tetley.

A tie-up with Whitbread, which once dominated the industry, would also prove attractive for regional brewers. They are keen to find a partner to avoid being squeezed out by Scottish & Newcastle and Bass, which will control about 70 per cent of the beer market between them if the Carlsberg-Tetley deal is allowed to proceed.

That purchase, expected to be announced tomorrow, will

involve Bass buying out Allied Domecq's 50 per cent stake in Carlsberg-Tetley, while Carlsberg of Denmark, the other joint-venture partner, will swap its stake for 20 per cent of Bass's combined brewing operations.

Whitbread, which owns brands such as Murphy's stout, Heineken, and Boddington's, is expected to be left trailing with only 15 per cent of the total market. Whitbread opposed Scottish & Newcastle's acquisition of Courage last year, but has been more muted in its criticism of the Carlsberg-Tetley deal.

The company believes that the latest round of consolidation presents it with several options to fight back.

Whitbread, of which Sir Michael Angus is chairman,

has the option to keep its beer prices low, once expected rises are pushed through, so undercutting the two bigger rivals. Alternatively, it could try to win over floating customers after Bass begins its expected cull of unwanted brands.

But top of the agenda is a series of tie-ups with regionals to help to improve Whitbread's own portfolio while gaining access for its other brands to more pubs.

Vaux, based in Sunderland, is one potential partner as it brews some Labatt beers that were acquired by Whitbread in May. However, Whitbread is as likely to look to second-tier regional players such as King and Barnes for alliances.

Such a strategy would revive memories of the "Whitbread umbrella", a vast array of shareholdings the company built up in regional brewers after the end of the Second World War. Whitbread now has only one stake, in Brakespear, the small regional brewer, and is unlikely to want to revive such a close relationship.

Instead, Whitbread will concentrate on striking deals modelled on its agreement with Wadworth, of Devizes, to distribute its 6X beer. The 20-year licence allows Wadworth to concentrate on its own pub and regional brewing activities, while Whitbread plugs a hole in its portfolio.

Whitbread may also look at taking on contract brewing from the regionals as well offering its own brands, and especially its lagers, to help to broaden the small brewers' portfolios. But the company will be keen to emphasise to the City that it is more interested in adding new premium beers, and especially bitters, than capturing extra market share.

Whitbread has steadily reduced the importance of its brewing division over the past few years, concentrating on its retail and leisure divisions, which now constitute 85 per cent of its business.



Sir Michael Angus, of Whitbread, has put the quest for alliances at the top of the agenda

Bifu plea to see job cuts report

BY ROBERT MILLER

A LEADING financial services union has called on the insurance industry to publish without delay a hard-hitting report which suggests the sector will shed up to 100,000 jobs in the next five years.

Bernadette Fisher, a negotiating officer for insurance at Bifu, the banking, insurance and finance union, said that after the merger between United Friendly and Refuge — at a cost of 1,800 posts on top of the 5,000 lost from the tie-up between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance — it was "a matter of extreme urgency" that the report compiled for the Association of British Insurers by Price Waterhouse, the accountant, be published immediately. Insurance analysts have

for some time predicted that the life and pensions industry was an overcrowded sector and could shrink by up to 25 per cent through mergers and takeovers by the year 2000. The present 320,000-strong workforce is expected to bear the brunt of the sector's rationalisation.

Ms Fisher said: "It is very important that we see the report and its conclusions on where the job losses will fall and what has caused them. We believe that customers will lose out on products and in competition terms in the current round of merger mania."

The ABI last night said it had not yet been decided when or if the report would be published.

Managers expect rates to rise

BY ROBERT MILLER

CITY fund managers responsible for looking after £931 billion now expect interest rates to rise over the next year, rather than fall further, according to the latest Merrill Lynch/Gallup monthly survey out today.

At least 81 per cent of the 74 institutions polled predict the Bank of England will raise the

base rate, compared with 64 per cent in July. Inflation forecasts were unchanged at 2.8 per cent for end-1996.

On the equity markets, the survey notes a sharp drop in the number of managers looking to raise their exposure to Pacific Rim shares, with the net balance down to 7 per cent from 21 per cent previously.

On a 12-month view of the UK market managers have become more optimistic, with a positive balance of 32 per cent of those polled, compared with 20 per cent last time.

The balance of managers planning to reduce their cash holdings is 11 per cent, compared with 7 per cent who wanted to raise cash in July.

Utilities are braced for mauling by watchdogs

BY MARTIN WALLER

TWO of Britain's privatised utilities are set for a regulatory savaging this week and proposed price cuts that would knock hundreds of millions of pounds off the profits of both British Gas and the National Grid.

Clare Spottiswoode, the Director-General of Ofgas, is expected this week to publish her long-awaited final proposals for price controls on TransCo, British Gas's pipelines business.

She is believed by City observers to have softened slightly on her earlier plans, which at worst would have meant a 28 per cent cut on the charges shippers pay to use the TransCo network.

She is now thought to have settled on a cut of perhaps 20 per cent, representing a £20 reduction in bills paid by British Gas's 18 million customers. Although this would represent a significant moderation of her original stance, it would still probably be unacceptable to the company.

If the proposals are rejected out of hand by British Gas, the matter goes automatically to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This might prove a political advantage to the Government, throwing the eventual resolution to the bitter conflict between company and regulator to beyond any general election.

But it would leave the stock market and British Gas's investors with months of uncertainty. The company's management has argued that such stringent regulation is effectively retrospective, aimed at clawing back profits already booked. The result of such a move would be thousands of lost jobs, a probable cut in dividends and question marks over the safety of the pipeline business because of lack of funds to invest, British Gas says.

On Tuesday Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, will announce proposed price cuts for National Grid. Although these would only knock a few pounds off electricity bills,

they would have a drastic impact on the company's finances. National Grid shares have been a poor performer since the company arrived on the stock market in December, but the stiff pricing regime the market expects, requiring an initial price cut of between 20 and 30 per cent, is likely to send them further into reverse.

"We're braced for bad news," admitted one source close to the company.

Tax cut of 2p forecast

The "feel-good" factor has returned to the UK economy, and consumer demand will be further strengthened by a 2p tax cut in November's Budget, a new quarterly economic report forecasts.

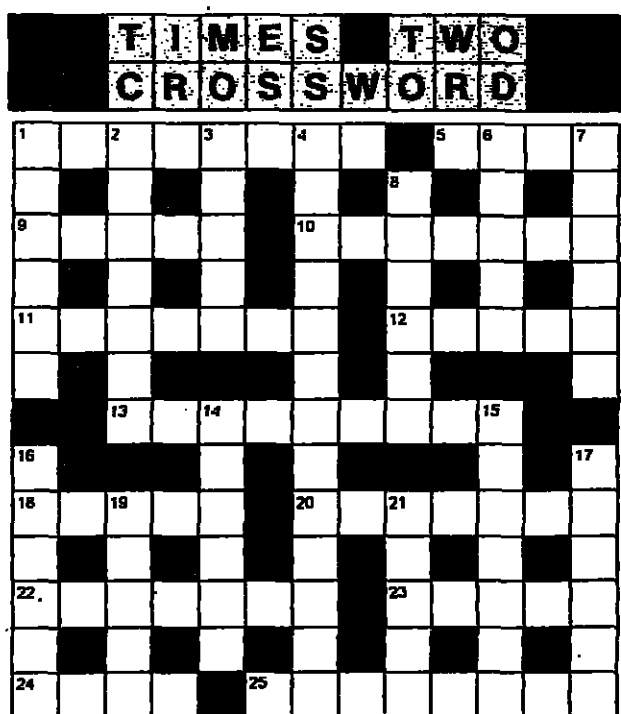
The report today by the Chartered Institute of Marketing says the property market is more buoyant, wage increases are expected to outstrip prices, and manufacturing production is picking up, albeit slowly.

Kept offer

The £500 million auction for the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kept) is intensifying amid speculation that an improved offer will be made by T.R. European Growth, the rival trust, this week. There are thought to be about a dozen other potential bidders.

Rate fears

Borrowers in Ireland are bracing themselves for a rise in interest rates this week after the Central Bank's refusal to stem the rise of wholesale rates over the past ten days.



No 858

ACROSS

- 1 Weakened, ineffective person (4,4)
- 5 Collar fastener (4)
- 9 Shrink in fear (5)
- 10 Of earthquakes (7)
- 11 Pay (of eg vicar) (7)
- 12 Polish currency (5)
- 13 Wisdom after event (9)
- 18 Compassion; courage (5)
- 20 Alone for (7)
- 22 Loud and discordant (7)
- 23 Pale grey (5)
- 24 Source: player protected in draw (4)
- 25 Drag out (8)

DOWN

- 1 Swarming, plague insect (6)
- 2 Inspired and sentimental (7)
- 3 Song of lament (5)
- 4 Money-issuing machine (4,9)
- 6 Speed (mus.) (5)
- 7 Metrical foot, tum-ti-ti (6)
- 8 Pattern of sharp turns (6)
- 14 People of a state (6)
- 15 Windpipe (7)
- 16 Wonder-of-World light-house (6)
- 17 Milk-curdling substance (6)
- 19 (Angle) less than 90° (5)
- 21 Intertwine (eg hair) (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 857

ACROSS: 1 Copy 3 Surtinct 8 Trod 9 Scornful 11 Gregarious 14 Ritual 15 Efface 17 High season 20 Hen party 21 Oche 22 Thank you 23 Lens

DOWN: 1 Category 2 Property 4 Urchin 5 Circumflex 6 Nuff 7 Tell 10 Safari park 12 Massacre 13 Keenness 16 Ghetto 18 Whet 19 Inca

Yellow card for smaller clubs

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

MANY football clubs face extinction if the gap between rich and poor continues to accelerate, according to a report published today by Deloitte & Touche, the accountant.

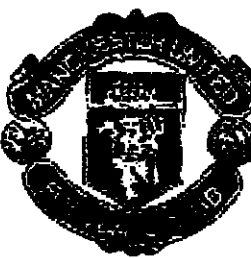
Cash-strapped clubs are being particularly hard hit by spiralling wage bills, which increased by an average 16 per cent in 1994-95 and are in danger of running out of control.

Deloitte found, in its Annual Review of Football Finance, that most clubs are struggling to stay afloat in spite of the image of a game awash with cash. Gerry Boon, chairman of the Deloitte & Touche football industry team, said: "The trickle-down is decreasing each year. The losses at the Football League clubs are a cause for concern and it is

difficult to see how some clubs will survive in the long term unless action is taken."

The average operating profit for Premiership clubs increased from £1.86 million to £2.25 million in 1994-95. But losses in other divisions continued to rise, with First Division clubs losing an average of £703,000.

Manchester United topped the pre-tax profits table with £20 million, a record for the game. Another quoted club, Tottenham Hotspur, was runner-up with a reported profit of more than £5 million. Only three other clubs, Aston Villa, Chelsea and Leicester, made profits of more than £2 million. Transfer fees in all divisions totalled £110 million in 1994-95, a 20 per cent increase on the previous year.



runner-up with a reported profit of more than £5 million. Only three other clubs, Aston Villa, Chelsea and Leicester, made profits of more than £2 million. Transfer fees in all divisions totalled £110 million in 1994-95, a 20 per cent increase on the previous year.

Pay rise of 400 per cent angers investors

Restaurants chief under fire

ALI SALIH, chairman of Aberdeen Steak Houses Group, will today face the wrath of his small shareholders as he tries to push through a 400 per cent pay rise, although the company refuses to pay investors a dividend (Alasdair Murray writes).

Mr Salih has 80 per cent of the shares. He is increasing his salary and pension contributions from £105,000 last year to £450,000. But the Aberdeen Steak

Houses Shareholders Group, which represents the company's small shareholders, is angry that Mr Salih is enjoying a pay rise, and was paid a bonus of £185,000 for increasing profits last year, while the company has failed to pay a dividend for seven years.

The restaurant company, which owns a chain of steak houses in London, quadrupled profits to £2.2 million last year. It ruled out a dividend because of concern about the

impact of the BSE crisis on cashflow. Mr Salih said, however, in his most recent trading statement that he did not believe the BSE scare would cause permanent damage to the company's business.

The action group is opposing the pay rise at today's annual meeting and is seeking the appointment of a third non-executive director, drawn from the minority shareholders, who control a maximum of 7 per cent of the votes.

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ATOL 4384

at a few drinks and a flutter



Anthony Holden on the one addiction that he believes he has under his control

Forgive me a wry smile in the mirror as I light a cigarette, take another sip of wine, and settle down to write of the one addiction I believe I have under control.

For me you behold a prototype of the addictive personality, too far gone even to dice with denial. If a thing's worth doing, as they say in Las Vegas, it's worth overdoing. I am an unrepentant smoker, ready to pay for my pleasure with the sordid and premature death in which it will no doubt end. I am a more repentant drinker, aware of the occasionally tragic transformations to my personality, not to mention my waistline — the two complaints that really register from a worried wife whose word is my bond.

I am also a bit of a gambler. I play poker at least twice a week — on Tuesday nights with a bunch of misfits doing back 25 years, at weekends in a club so grim it can feel more like self-punishment than self-gratification. But poker, as any serious player will tell you, is not gambling. Gambling is a loose, and losing, style of playing poker — in which money is merely the method of keeping score.

Yes, poker is a game played for money, large amounts of which can change hands on the random fall of a card. If, however, you know what you are doing, you are wagering favourable odds. Regardless of the passing whims of Lady Luck, the law of averages will ensure that in the long run the accurate player will win.

In any other casino game — roulette, blackjack, craps, baccarat — you are wagering unfavourable odds, loaded in favour of the house. You may have a thrilling, short-term win at the roulette table, but if you are tempted to try it every night, let alone for a living, you'll be a loser.

The same applies to horses,

'Money won is twice as sweet as money earned'

GAMBLING

athletes. National Lottery balls or any other object beyond your control. If one freak, exhilarating win breeds a predictable taste for more, it will also point you towards equally predictable ruin.

None of which, of course, stops stubborn types like me attempting to defy the odds. Our creed is that of Paul Newman's "Fast Eddie" Felson in Scorsese's *The Color of Money*: "Money won is twice as sweet as money earned." But I learnt my lessons early to the point where I live by the golden rule never to risk more than I can afford to lose.

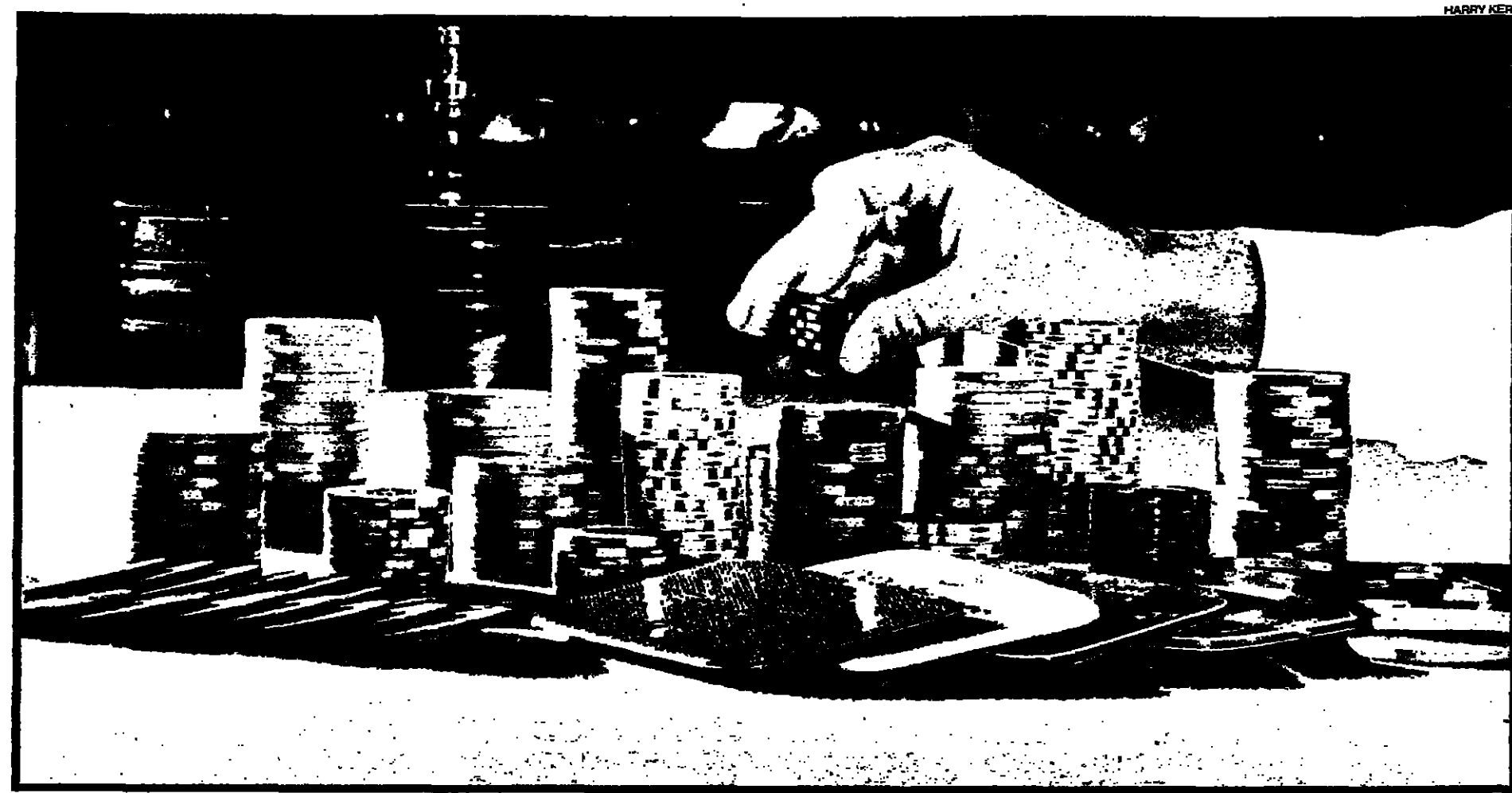
For 20 years I have disciplined my gambling via a separate bank account. That way, you can punish yourself for a careless loss by paying the interest on your overdraft; enjoy a handsome win by taking a vacation at someone else's expense; and treat money with the contempt it deserves.

So, for all my other failings, I do not regard myself as a compulsive gambler. But I

have known my share of those who are: my high-wire Dostoevskian friend, who can sweat his way through three shirts in an air-conditioned casino; who just cannot walk away while winning; and who is not really happy, not really purged until he's lost the lot. Or the

sometime world seven-card stud champion, who has plummeted from the Fast Lane to Skid Row in a few short years. Or those poker players who cannot fold, who have to be in every hand for the remote thrill of winning, who cannot see that it is their ego running a show they should long since have consigned to their wits.

What they fail to understand is that victory goes not to



"You may have a thrilling, short-term win at the roulette table, but if you are tempted to try it every night, you'll be a loser. The same applies to horses, athletes or National Lottery balls"

the player who wins the most pots, but to the player who wins the most money. They are in it for the action. They are losers — and most of them, in my experience, are British.

How has this uptight, anal-retentive nation produced so many born losers in pursuit of something for nothing?

In those last three words, of course, lies the answer. Everyone's after the same thing. Something for nothing, and to hell with the hindmost.

Some succeed. Others, like Nick Leeson, don't. For those of us operating at more modest levels, the true essential is self-knowledge. A gambler, who can swallow his ego, control his pride, acknowledge his limitations and adjust his risks accordingly, will generally survive. Those who deceive themselves that they know better, that today is their lucky day — and if not, there's always tomorrow — they, poor souls, are the damned.

BULIMIA causes many strange side-effects, which nobody ever seems to mention: after a binge, a severe pain occurs in, of all places, the armpits. After a private Häagen-Dazs feast, for example, the fact that the stomach is stretched to bursting is logical: even that the saliva glands are so swollen that one can't turn one's neck and head makes a sort of sense. The bruised armpits remain a puzzle.

I had an eating disorder for five years, plenty of time to study the peculiarities of addiction in general, and this 'hardest-of-all-addictions' to kick in particular. I was 23 when it came up to grab me, a late starter, children of seven get anorexia these days.

I started by starving myself. It seemed a clever method of losing weight and gaining attention. I had briefly savoured its power when, aged

I thought I was fat

EATING



Food, gluttonous food

14, inspired by IRA hunger-strikers, I had refused to eat for ten days as a means of persuading my parents to take me away from my miserable boarding school. It worked: I was sent to a day school nearer home. Starving was glamorous, poetic, noble.

Nearly a decade later, unhappy again, I decided to try it once more. Unfortunately, it graduated into a bulimic addiction which was far from romantic. While bingeing undoubtedly bestowed its own sort of fleeting and perverted pleasure — secretly gorging on all those forbidden foods in sinfully huge amounts — the disorder was agonising, lonely, shameful and boring; boring as hell.

First, there are all the

calculations to do with fleshly forbidden pounds and calories. One's brain is forced to indulge a diseased obsession when calorie calculations take up hours, even pervading dreams. If someone had thrown a chocolate mousse in my face, eyes closed I would

have been able to tell its exact caloric value. Secondly, there were the interminable battles in the head between the rational and the irrational. The rational said: "You are not completely obese; you can eat like a normal person." The irrational — alas stronger — thought otherwise, assuming that when someone glanced at me on the bus, it was because I was so grotesquely fat that I was a fairground freak.

I suppose it was the irrational, too, that would interfere with my opinion-perfect eyesight whenever I looked in the mirror. My reflection was this vast Beryl Cook figure, stomach like a mound of cold porridge, thighs and hips a grotesque distortion of job-

purs and sandbags.

The truth about eating disorders is harder to gauge than with other addictions. While a troubled childhood might have a lot to do with all of them, there are added factors when it comes to food obsessions: for example, a sick fashion industry which dictates that only a uniform, obscene thinness qualifies someone to be human.

I don't believe there are cures for anorexia and bulimia. The reason I managed four years ago finally to kick it was luck more than anything — a combination of growing older and more confident, of becoming fed up with my calories-and-pounds infested mind, and stumbling across someone who thinks a really thin woman is about as sexy as a chair leg and gave every indication of sticking around.

CANDIDA CREWE

Falling in love... again

ROMANCE

The American super-model Christie Brinkley has announced that she intends, once again, to marry. It will be her fourth time, and her fifth serious relationship if you count a boyfriend who died in a car crash. She heads for the altar aware that in the

past, marriage has made her deeply unhappy. Yet she is having another tilt. Why? Addiction is the diagnosis of Dr Dennis O'Grady, a psychologist and author from

Dayton, Ohio, who specialises in marriage problems and depression. "You cannot get addicted to marriage per se," he says, "but you can get addicted to the feeling of being in love, to the romantic process of courtship. Some people just like to chase the love wagon."

Brinkley's first husband was Jean-François Allaux, a French illustrator. Then came the singer Billy Joel, who memorably labelled her the "uptown girl" in one of his hits. In the 1980s and early 1990s, the Joels were the dream couple of Manhattan, but then it all went wrong. Brinkley rebounded with a heady, deep affair with a French racing driver and champagne heir, Olivier Chandon de Briailles, who was to die in an horrific crash. Soon after his death and within weeks of her divorce from Joel being finalised, Brinkley married Rick Taubman, a property developer.

"Ricky and I want to be together all the time," she said. "We knew it was meant to be." But within eight months, just seven weeks after the birth of their son, the couple split up.

Zsa Zsa Gabor, Liz Taylor, Sir James Goldsmith — these are the names one quickly associates with multiple marriage. However, the phenomenon is not confined to the wealthy and glamorous. Only the other day an apparently ordinary patient walked in to Dr O'Grady's surgery to announce that he had decided to marry for the twelfth time. The same old arguments were presented. The new fiancée was the woman of his dreams. Yes, he was sure. Never felt surer. It was love. Heck, this was the life he had been waiting for all these years.

Dr O'Grady believes that we enter marriage these days with our expectations unfairly

raised. "Romantic marriage is a very recent concept, dating back little more than 30 years," he says. "In the past, weddings were often arranged and husbands and wives learnt to love one another. Now we even expect men to communicate. And people are not prepared to work hard enough at their marriages."

Refreshingly for an American psychologist, Dr O'Grady further argues that modern couples talk too much and attempt too much amateur psychoanalysis of one another's shortcomings. They also pick up phrases such as "in denial" from the media and try to use them in their own



Dream chaser: Liz Taylor

contexts, he says, and often it all ends in divorce.

Last month Brinkley was asked why marriage number three had failed. She replied that at the time she was proposed to by Taubman, for whom the marriage was a first, she had clearly been going through some sort of post-traumatic stress" after a helicopter accident. Her latest fiancé is Peter Cook, a handsome architect whom she has known for about two months. The attraction was instant. "Oh yes," she has said. "I knew."

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART
The National Gallery of Scotland's stunning Velázquez exhibition is the star of the show at the Edinburgh Festival
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ THEATRE
Robert Lepage reconceives *Hamlet* for the technological age in his *Elsinore* at the Edinburgh Festival
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ JAZZ
Fresh from the release of his new album, *My Romance*, the US tenor saxman Scott Hamilton plays Pizza Express
GIG: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ DANCE
Mark Morris, already a favourite with festival audiences, returns with a special programme to mark Edinburgh's 50th
OPENS: Monday
REVIEW: Thursday

The director the critics hate to love

James Woodall meets Peter Stein as he prepares to unleash his *Uncle Vanya* - in Italian - on Edinburgh

Peter Stein, the German theatre director, almost never gives interviews - not to the German press, at any rate, and to foreigners only sparingly. He has been living in Rome for the past five years, and hopes to die there. He has been in charge of the theatre at Salzburg for six years, where German critics continue to savage his work.

"Why this happens I cannot say," he says. "With *The Hairy Ape* [Stein's immensely successful production of O'Neill's play, performed at London's National Theatre in 1988], they said I should never be given money to do shows again."

The public, it seems, takes no notice. In Salzburg Stein has trebled theatregoing audiences. At the Edinburgh Festival, meanwhile, he has become a star fixture: *Julius Caesar* and Verdi's *Falstaff* in 1993; a Russian *Orestia* in 1994; and now Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. The showcasing of Stein's brilliant and innovative productions in Scotland is due entirely to the festival director, Brian McMaster. McMaster persuaded Stein to direct operas at Welsh National Opera in the 1980s, and has brought Stein's theatre to Edinburgh for the good reason that he is one of the world's finest directors.

Uncle Vanya promises to be something special. Firstly, it is in Italian. Under the aegis of the Teatro di Roma, it was premiered in Moscow last Easter, and stars Stein's wife Maddalena Crippa as Yelena.



and one of Italy's most versatile actors, Roberto Herlitzka, as Vanya.

"Herlitzka is highly formalistic and studies hard, almost too hard," Stein says. "He's also full of little improvisations you nearly can't see. All Italian actors have a certain kind of physical behaviour on stage which is unique."

This went down well in Moscow, to Stein's surprise, not least because he has made Vanya very funny and the lovelorn Sonya (Elisabetta Pozzi) older than usual. Years of work on Chekhov have clearly paid off, even if in Stein's opinion *Uncle Vanya* is not his best play. "I'm very clear about the hierarchy of the quality of the plays. The best of them is *The Cherry Orchard*. The easiest to do is *Three Sisters*, because it's a very good story. And I'm not very fond of *The Seagull*."

Stein does nothing by halves. Work on *Vanya* in 1995 included the cast reading Chekhov's letters and novels and Stanislavsky on Chekhov and trips through the Russian

landscape as well as rehearsals in Moscow: typical Stein hard graft. For *As You Like It* at the Berlin's Schaubühne, he famously traipsed around Warwickshire for a few weeks with his actors.

In *Vanya*, Stein begins to see something he is adamant is integral to the other two Chekhov plays: the way Russians deal with time. "Western Europeans try to organise change and manipulate everything," he says. "The great philosophers say we should not do this, they say rather that we should try to get into contact with time passing, get in harmony with things - the whole cosmic situation. This we see in Chekhov, and it's a very Russian thing."

With time come changes in weather, temperature and season, all central to the design of this *Vanya*. "Chekhov likes to go through different atmospheres - *ajfa* [sultriness], for example, in the first act. In the second act the storm comes, and everything seems refreshed, though we see that's not the case. Act III is in bright sunshine of late summer. Act IV is an autumn evening. All of this has an enormous influence on the characters."

This almost scientific attention to detail is a constant in Stein's approach to mounting a play. The reading, travelling and cultural immersion that precede each one are symptomatic of the way he has conducted his career.

Born in Berlin in 1937, Stein followed a course in literature and fine arts for eight years, travelling around Europe. He gained no doctorate - the stamp of cultural gravitas in Germany - and knew he couldn't paint or write. When it came to theatre, he simply bought tickets for shows and watched actors closely. When he finally landed a job as assistant director in Munich in the mid-1960s, he was steeped in music and painting as he was in drama.

In 1970, he co-founded the Schaubühne (with Edith Clever and actor Bruno Ganz, among others) and proved that he could turn an undistinguished Berlin suburban theatre into Germany's most pioneering drama powerhouse, both as director and organiser.

Impressively ambitious, Stein feigns no modesty whatsoever. Yet about his own job, he is refreshingly frank: "As a director, you are a combiner: you can't speak, you can't sing, you can't paint, but you can make a set, but you can interfere with everything and organise. Theatre is compiled art, which is a lousy definition of directing."

● *Uncle Vanya* is at the King's Theatre (0131-225 5799) Aug 29-31

Benedict Nightingale changes hats, from privileged critic to paying customer



High spirits at high prices: the cast of *Grease*, the hit show Benedict Nightingale chose to see on his frustrating night out as a West End punter

A dim view from Row Y

It is easy for a critic to forget how the other 99.9 per cent live. Most people do not swan into theatres to find welcoming publicity officers with free tickets, free programmes, and if the producer is feeling generous, free glasses of wine. Most people do not find themselves comfortably perched on aisle seats six or seven rows from the stage, nor, one fears, can they be confident of watching a complete, unadulterated cast giving their all to the show. Of course, first nights have their irksome aspects, what with all those paparazzi and autograph hounds clogging the foyer and those overdressed celebs undulating round the stalls and delaying the rise of the curtain; but for many people even this might be part of the fun.

Trevor Nunn, too, is more likely to visit theatres as a favoured guest than an ordinary punter, but the article he recently wrote about the decay of the West End has clearly touched quite a few chords. For 99.9 per cent of people, playgoing must often be a chore and an irritant. As I endlessly circle the Piccadilly area in search of an overpriced parking spot, then battle through the crowds in hopes of snatching a bite before seeing yet another ratty compendium

show, a paradoxical thought regularly strikes me: it is a good thing I love the theatre or I would very likely hate the theatre. But I wonder how many less privileged playgoers are terminally put off by the problems of getting to Shaftesbury Avenue, the cluttered pavements, the expense and, this summer, the poorish choice of shows.

A few days ago I tried to put myself in the place of a member of the paying public who fancied an evening away from the box. I fear my spirits dipped as soon as I inspected the list of West End shows I had already reviewed. It consisted almost entirely of musicals and revivals, and not many of them struck me as warranting a first visit, let alone a second. So I spread out my *London Theatre Guide*, shut my eyes, and hoped my finger would land on something I had enjoyed, such as *An Inspector Calls*, *By Jeeves* or even *The Odd Couple*.

But, oh dear, it ended up bang on the G of *Grease* at the Dominion. I did not greatly relish the prospect of spending two and a half hours watching 1950s high-school kids parading their loudly miked amours; and yet I had to admit it was an apt choice, for the show has survived iffy reviews to become a popular success. It has run for more than three years and, as I found when I called the theatre, it still quickly sells its better seats. While the phone disloyally played Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Memory* to me, the box-office staff discovered they could offer me nothing that night at the top price of £27.50.

This is not the dearest ticket in town. A good seat at *Miss Saigon*, *Phantom of the Opera* or several other big, lavish musicals now costs £32.50, and even straight plays can set you back £24 or even £26. The days when we could boast that the West End was much cheaper than Broadway are gone, especially for theatre-goers unwise enough to get tickets at places other than the box office. A shop on Shaftesbury Avenue offered me a £27.50 seat for *Grease* for £34.50, or £7 more than face value, and I have no reason to suppose it was an especially good one. So I phoned in my credit card number and bought a place way back in row Y for £22.50.

But how to get to the theatre for a 7.30pm start? This is a problem that has far more impact on theatregoing than is usually acknowledged. No sensible person would come by bus through the early-evening rush hour, and even when the drivers are not on strike, late-evening Tube trains home are erratic and crammed with the less lovely sort of night people. If the show is long, or you decide to cat out afterwards, the railways are not much help either. All this explains why people

drive to the theatre - and why many must be loath to repeat the experience.

Finding a parking space in Westminster is hard enough, especially now the IRA has made the streets off Whitehall a no-go area. But it is the obstructionism of Camden, whose remit inexplicably extends deep into Covent Garden, that is unforgivable.

It is a good thing I love the theatre, or I would very likely hate it

Even if you find a two-hour meter somewhere central, you cannot use it before 6.30pm. For parking restrictions now extend to 8.30pm, long after every curtain in town has risen; and, just to add to the misery, double-yellow lines have replaced virtually all the single ones. Oblivious to the interests of the theatres and restaurants that keep them solvent, these north London killjoys have made it near-impossible for car-owners to enjoy an evening out.

Since the Dominion is in Camden's domains, the obvious answer is a car park. But the nearest one to the theatre charges an outrageous £8.50 an evening, and more if you enter it before 6.30pm. That is more expensive than any Broadway car park I know, and explains why I ended up finding myself a street slot a quarter of a mile north and then wandered back to Soho in hopes of visiting a decent restaurant before 7pm, when I had been politely ordered to collect my ticket. But time was by now too short to do justice to cooking that, at £20 to £40 a meal, would also cost me more than its New York counterpart. So I crammed down a pie and a pint in a pub and hurried off to the Dominion.

Above the theatre fringe was an enormous quote from the *Daily Mirror*: "*Grease* is the word." Reflecting that this was about as meaningful as "Train-spotting is the participle," I was directed first to one wrong queue, then to another, before a man in a monkey suit kept from a door marked "private" to give me my prepaid ticket. Still, the process only took a few minutes, and everyone was polite enough for me to stifle any complaints. There were several complaints I eventually felt like making. The programme was

not worth £2 nor the flimsy "souvenir brochure" £4, and I decided not to treat myself to a *Grease* sweatshirt, for it cost all of £17.50. The hot, humid auditorium badly needed air-conditioning. A brusque, half-comprehensible voice informed us that no fewer than four performers were missing and, presumably, being replaced by understudies. My £22.50 seat was too many rods, poles or perches from the stage for me to get a clear look at the cheerleaders' legs and their studs' faces. Luckily or unluckily, the stalls bar, like most theatre bars in London, was so crowded that I never got to pay £2 for a few sips of wine, £2.10 for a tiny gin, or £20 for a half-bottle of champagne.

Nevertheless, the performance was up to scratch and left my fellow spectators clapping and cheering. Maybe they had organised the evening better than me. Or maybe they had paid so much that they put more effort into enjoying it. I was fortunate to have got away with expenses of £37, plus the cost of driving to and from Fulham. If I had taken my wife and tried to make a proper night of it, I could easily have spent £120 or £150 and still have ended up irritated and frustrated. Is it a wonder the West End is having its struggles?



Peter Stein in Salzburg, where he is loved by the public and reviled by the critics - "Why, I cannot say"

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Matthew Parris



Incidents and accidents make the news, but we will never be prepared for them if we don't look beyond

Since what follows is not about abortion, why have I contrived to get the word into my first sentence? Because for columnists, there is a presumption that the selection of topics for discussion should, where possible, be driven by events. No journalist can ignore it. I regret that.

Two Mondays ago, few of us had heard of selective foetal abortion, and many had never heard of Queen Charlotte's Hospital. If a *Times* columnist had devoted an essay to the pros and cons of aborting one out of two twins on the ground that a hypothetical pregnant woman felt she could cope only with one baby, his Editor would have politely wondered why on earth he had chosen to write such a piece. So would many of his readers. If the columnist had replied that the conjectured dilemma might have occurred already without being reported, could easily occur in the future, and sooner or later probably would, his Editor might politely have suggested that he wait until it did.

If, last Monday, following revelations about just such a case in the *Sunday Express*, a *Times* columnist had dreamt up — again, just for the sake of argument — a different case in which a mother expecting octuplets faced the choice whether to sacrifice six of them for the health of the remaining two, his Editor might have raised an eyebrow at the columnist's protest that, even though this had not happened, it might. But the Editor would have accepted that at least his columnist was in the right ball-park, if playing a fanciful game.

Today, after news of just such a case in the weekend's papers, those Fleet Street columnists who are not writing about the arrival of aliens from Mars are asking themselves whether there can now be any justification for writing about any subject but abortion, twins and octuplets.

It is therefore disingenuous of the "pro-choice" brigade (to which, with troubled heart, I belong) to accuse the "pro-life" brigade of "latching on to" or "exploiting" personal agonies to advance their own causes. For this is the only way one can interest the media in any argument these days. "Pro-lifers" are always trying to raise issues like these, but while the debate relates to hypotheticals, British journalism is simply not interested. So you can hardly blame the protagonists for seizing the only opportunities our news-led media offer. They know that within weeks the short season of interest in their argument will be over, and they will have to revert to leafletting delegates at party conferences and mail-

ing unsolicited pamphlets — until the next "real life" example occurs.

Are we too stupid, as a nation, to conceptualise any longer? Has the fast-moving succession of pictures of tangles, with which TV channels compete to hold our attention, dulled our capacity or removed our imaginative need for speculative reasoning? Is this now a country in which rail safety cannot be discussed until a train has crashed, in which abortion is boring until a real human drama grips our emotions, and in which the howling irresolvables at the centre of the Labour Party's beliefs go unacknowledged until a woman of only average intelligence but media prominence places on record what has for years been plain to the meanest intellect in the land?

Is it only — or even? — at Oxbridge philosophy tutorials that students are asked, any more, to begin with the argument using practical examples only as an aid to understanding? Am I naïve to imagine there might be a few people left in Britain to whom it would not be necessary to explain why it is completely immaterial to an argument whether the cases discussed have or have not actually occurred, so long as they very well might have?

I fear the worst. If so, the *Sunday Express* would have been absolutely right to run the story: as current even if they had known that it was weeks out of date. Why not take this editorial practice to its logical conclusion? Instead of waiting upon the vagaries of circumstance to provide the pegs on which to hang necessary arguments, the press could keep extensive archives of unused tales, some of them decades old. Depending on need, editorial whim or a summer news-famine, these tales could then be culled and padded, posing as modern instances, to catch the public imagination in due season.

Or why not just make them up? Television soap operas already accept a responsibility to "set the agenda". Scriptwriters trigger public debate on an important issue by introducing a heart-wrenching fictional dilemma into their storylines. So how about an emergency debate (when MPs return) on the issues aired by the failed lesbian marriage of Zoe Tate and Emma Nightingale in *Emmerdale*? Is raven-haired fitness instructor Linda, 31, right to console Zoe in the way she has, given her complexity in the break-up? Has she broken any moral or social obligation by her recent pass at that other blonde?

And why don't we have a leading article on that, eh, Mr Editor of *The Times*?

Are we now unable to engage in debate without particular cases to get us going?

Bob Dole's running-mate will revive Reagan Republicanism, giving the party back its tax-cutting appeal

The decision to put Jack Kemp on the Republican ticket is far the best thing that has happened to that campaign so far. He is a genuinely interesting American politician, a man of the people who is also a man of ideas. I watched his brief acceptance speech live on CNN. He made two important points. The first was his identification of the Republican Party with two popular Presidents, Lincoln and Reagan; he referred to Reagan twice. He is already campaigning as a Reagan Republican. That is significant as it would be if a successor to John Major announced that he was campaigning as a Thatcher Conservative. Kemp has repudiated, by implication, the consensus Republicanism of George Bush.

The second important statement was that he regards Bob Dole's promise to cut taxes as only the first instalment of a bigger and longer-term policy. Jack Kemp supported Steve Forbes and the flat-tax proposal in the primaries. He is a committed supply-sider, a believer in cutting taxes and in reducing the size of government. With Dole, this has been a conversion, forced on him by the mood of the Republican Party and by the failure of the earlier stages of his campaign. With Kemp it is a settled conviction, held for many years. He was ideologically a Reagan Republican when Nixon was still in the White House.

I first met Jack Kemp in the mid 1970s, at a meeting of the Council for Monetary Reform and Education in New York State. He was then still very famous as a recently retired American footballer. Like Ronald Reagan, he came from a world of sport and entertainment which had a strong appeal for industrial America. He had been born in California, but his constituency in the House of Representatives was Buffalo, the rust-belt industrial city in northern

Why Kemp could be just the ticket

New York State. As a Republican he repeatedly carried Buffalo, with his percentage of the vote going into the high seventies.

At the CMRE meetings we were discussing the world inflation of the 1970s. I was sympathetic to a restoration of the gold-standard system; President Nixon had only terminated American gold convertibility in 1971. That had opened the floodgates of the great inflation, or so it seemed to us. Jack Kemp was equally sympathetic to gold — indeed he once read a pro-gold article that I had written for *The Times* into the Congressional Record. What struck me at the time was his conviction that the Republicans could sell a new economic policy to the American people only if it was going to make them better off in terms of jobs, taxes and their own real incomes. He was both a monetarist and an expansionist.

Jack Kemp's personal experience is rooted in Buffalo, in his work as the congressman for a city suffering the problems of advanced industrial decline. In the 1970s he was already arguing that solutions must be found for these old industrial areas subject to new competition. His objective was to reach a dynamic balance with a high rate of job creation, rather than a static one which accepted the status quo of big government. When last Saturday he attacked President Clinton's status quo policies, he was not just picking up a convenient argument, he was repeating what I heard

him say more than 20 years ago. As a radical supply-sider, he has always rejected status quo policies of the Left or Right.

During the Republican primaries, these supply-side, Reaganite, flat-tax policies were advocated by Steve Forbes, the millionaire publisher, who did surprisingly well considering he had never run for any public office before. Kemp supported Forbes, even though Dole was winning. Indeed, when Forbes told him that he had \$20 million of his own

President in the later stages of an American boom, Jack Kemp, who is a true Reagan Republican, is only the vice-presidential candidate, while Bob Dole, who is by nature a Nixon Republican, is head of the ticket. Bill Clinton has a current lead of about 20 per cent in the polls, a very big lead for this stage of the campaign. The Democrats will exploit the record of the past differences between Dole and Kemp. It is not inconceivable that Dole and Kemp will win the presidential race, but it is not very likely.

William Rees-Mogg

money to spend on the race, Kemp said to him, "Why don't you give me the \$20 million and let me run for president?" The reason Bob Dole has had to put Kemp on the ticket, after 20 years of disagreement on political and economic policy, is that he has been forced to accept low-tax policies. Kemp is the only Republican with a record which can authenticate this Dole conversion.

If you could run Reaganism against Clintonism head-to-head, I do not doubt that Reaganism would win. Unfortunately, it is not as easy as that. Bill Clinton is the incumbent

Nevertheless, the advantages for the Republicans of nominating Kemp will be substantial. He has agreed to join the ticket because Dole has agreed to fight on a tax-cutting platform, which Kemp will articulate in all of his speeches. That campaign has already begun. This means that for the first time since 1988, the Republicans are a Reaganite rather than a consensus party. That goes a long way to making Ross Perot irrelevant: he had his political hour as a protest against the soft consensus policies of George Bush. Any Reagan voter who casts a ballot for Perot when Jack Kemp is on the Republican ticket will be making a big mistake.

Ronald Reagan won elections partly because he was able to mobilise the hard-hat Republican vote; he had the same appeal to working-class

conservatives as Margaret Thatcher had in Britain. In the Republican primaries, some of this support went to Pat Buchanan, who is a skillful conservative populist, and some to Steve Forbes as the low-tax advocate. Jack Kemp will remobilise much of this support. In thinking about his appeal, one has to remember football as well as Buffalo. He is like a Conservative candidate in Britain who has both played for Newcastle United and won a 3-1 majority in a Newcastle seat. This matters far more to the public than his ability as a young ex-footballer to take on Professor Kaldor in a monetary debate and reach an honourable draw.

I suspect his immediate political impact will help Dole, but enough, and will help Republican candidates for the House and Senate. The Republicans will win back the reputation that George Bush threw away as the reliable low-tax party. Jack Kemp gives the Republicans a dominant theme for the future. After President Reagan retired there was inevitably a move away from Reaganism, just as John Major has moved away from Thatcherism. That period in America is now over, and Reaganism is back in control — Bob Dole has found out the hard way that he did not have a chance without it.

The essence of Reaganism is smaller government, lower taxes, more jobs, local populism rather than Washington elitism, and patriotism, the feeling for America. The essence of Thatcherism is very similar. The experience of American politics is that this is a winning combination, and that consensus conservatism is not. It may well be too late to win back the presidency in 1996. The decision to put Jack Kemp on the ticket improves the Republicans' chances of holding their majority in Congress in 1996 and of winning the presidency in 2000.

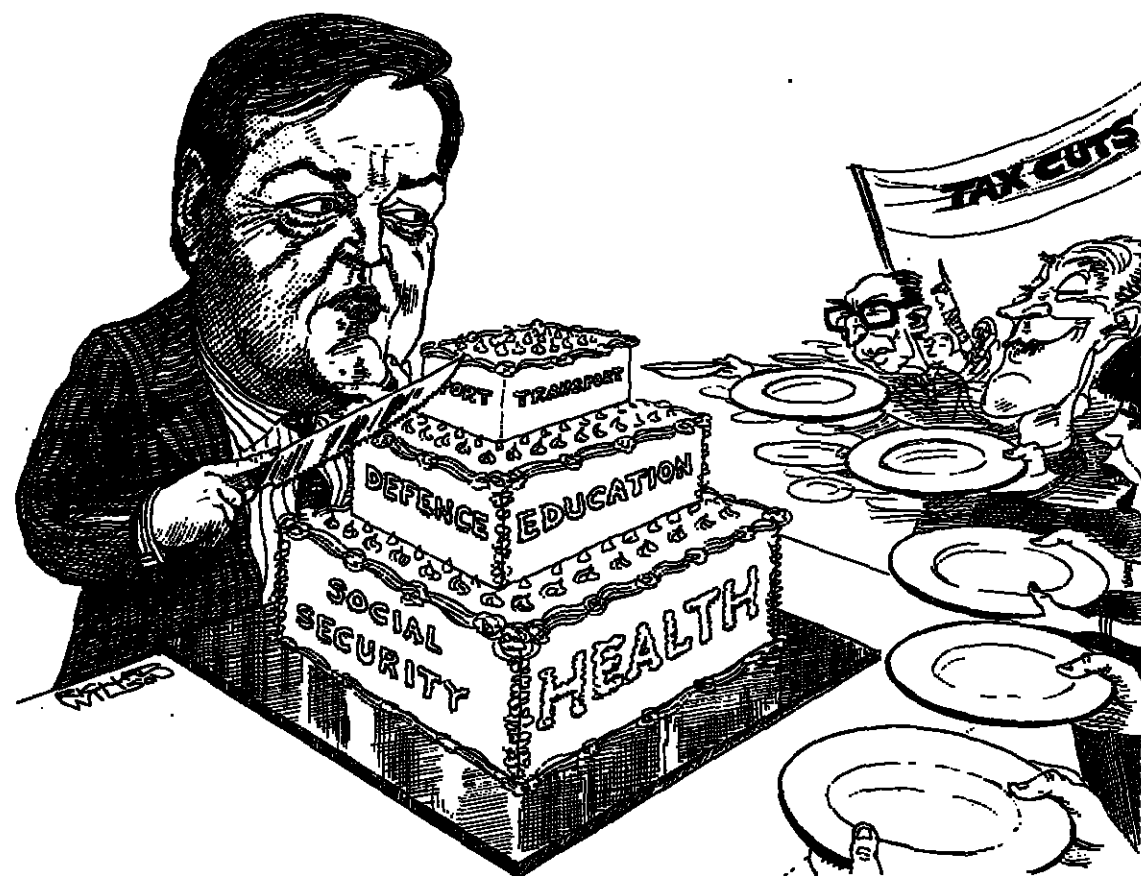
Whichever way you slice it

Tax-cutters should not forget voters' appetite for welfare, says Peter Riddell

Whenever a politician proposes sweeping tax reductions — as Bob Dole did last week with his \$548 billion cuts package — I become suspicious. It sounds too good to be true, and usually is. Either the economic assumptions are far too optimistic or the cuts in spending are vague — or both, as in the Dole plan. Just as politicians of the Left pretend that existing public services can for ever be improved without raising the tax burden, so those of the Right often claim that taxes can be cut substantially without any impact on core public programmes. Both views are in the long term unsustainable.

For the 30 years after 1945, voters in most countries were willing to accept a rising tax burden to pay for expanding public services, whether roads, higher education or social benefits. That changed after the inflationary explosion of the mid 1970s when the Labour Government, like those overseas, sought to check the growth in spending. Well before the Thatcher revolution, Denis Healey recognised the resistance among working families, and Labour supporters, to paying more in taxes. Ironically, it was Tony Crosland, the leading ideologist of social democracy, who signalled the shift in spending trends, with his remark in 1975 to local councils that "the party is over".

The Tories have often been criticised for failing to cut back spending. But, apart from the relaxation of the early 1980s, they have achieved a lot. The share of spending in national income fell from a peak of more than 47 per cent in the mid 1970s, and just over 45 per cent in the recession of the early 1980s, to a low of 38 per cent in



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

the boom of the late 1980s, before rising to 43 per cent during the downturn of the early 1990s. The Thatcher Governments cut subsidies for nationalised industries and public housing, and in the 1990s there have been efficiency gains from contracting-out and changes in the structure of the health service, plus cuts in the defence budget after the end of the Cold War. Successive attempts to trim social security have produced large cumulative savings.

Nonetheless, public spending has grown steadily in real terms, because the public overwhelmingly still wants schools and a health service that are free at the point of use, and extensive social benefits. Kenneth Clarke is one of the few politicians publicly to admit that if the present structure of the welfare state is maintained, as he wishes, it will be hard to reduce the

share of spending much below 40 per cent. By implication, the tax burden could fall only a little. Even that goal has required continuing squeezes on pay and other running costs, and cuts in capital investment, producing complaints about lower standards of public services and inadequate spending on infrastructure.

So frightened is the Blairite "new" Labour Party of any hint of higher taxes that it has tried to wish the problem away. It has pretended that apart from a few flagship pledges financed in a gimmicky and one-off fashion, merely ruling out new spending commitments will make demands for better services disappear. Many on the Right behave as if tax cuts could somehow be financed from

waste in Whitehall and social security fraud without challenging core commitments. There is always some scope at the margin, but such savings cannot begin to finance a big reduction in the tax burden.

The only solution consistent with holding down taxes, let alone cutting them substantially, is to accept that the supply of services does not have to be limited to what the taxpayer will finance. As Lord Skidelsky has argued, and as the Social Market Foundation has shown in several studies, there is no reason why demand should be suppressed by the imposition of a public finance limit on supply. A shift in the balance of public versus private financing has occurred in pensions and is increasingly accepted in higher education. An expansion of private insurance and vouchers (implicit in Labour's

lifetime learning plans) looks certain whoever wins the election. As it is, most politicians avoid these questions. The Dole plan is worse than most, as its author would have been the first to argue during his days in the Senate. He has exempted politically sensitive areas of defence, social security (that is, pensions) and most Medicare health provision from the elderly. This leaves huge, unspecified cuts in other domestic programmes, which account for only a third of total spending. Much has been made of President Clinton's decision to sign the Republican Bill cutting benefits to poor families with children, but that does not touch the big pension and health programmes.

Moreover, in a nod towards supply-siders, including Jack Kemp, his vice-presidential choice, Mr Dole assumes that more than a quarter of the cost of tax cuts will be recouped by higher tax revenues generated by faster growth. But the Reagan years showed that across-the-board tax cuts without comparable spending reductions merely push up the budget deficit and interest rates. Reducing high marginal tax rates and freeing markets should stimulate investment and job creation in the long term, but it is foolish to assume any short-term boost to tax revenues. The Federal Reserve's balanced monetary policies, rather than sweeping tax cuts, have been the key to the strength of the American economy.

The Tory Right has so far avoided these errors, but like Mr Dole it has been reluctant to address the unresolved dilemma left over from the Reagan and Thatcher years: voters do not want to pay higher taxes, but they remain attached to a wide-ranging welfare state. As the leaked Treasury planning paper suggested, a "Contract with Britain", aiming for a smaller State, "would probably meet even greater resistance" here than in America. There only limited parts of the *Contract with America* have been enacted, because of public opposition to rolling back government. But without radical reform of the financing of the main social programmes, big tax cuts are an illusion.

Brit flop

BRITISH pop stars are being lined up to rescue President Clinton's 50th birthday party. On Friday, details of a guestlist for the party were made public, showing the lavish efforts the White House is making to gather together Hollywood's beautiful people in tribute to the President in this election year.

Attached was a B-list of celebrities to be used in desperation at the party to be staged at Radio City Music Hall in New York. According to the New York Post, these included our very own Elton John and Rod Stewart, as well as the Irish band the Chieftains. To compound the insult, the A-list is said to include Kenny Rogers, Cher, Carly Simon, Robert Flack and the reedy-voiced Phil Collins.

Hillary Clinton is in charge of the organisation of what was supposed to be the splashiest presidential birthday party since 1962, when Marilyn Monroe sang a smoky *Happy Birthday* to John F. Kennedy, who was rumoured to be her lover.

So far, however, the party planners have found celebrities hard to

come by. Among those said to be unavailable are the Paul McCartneys (talk of an illness), the Warren Beattys (pregnancy), Tina Turner (in France) and Jack Nicklaus (on the golf course). Understandably enough, the White House memorandum on which the New York Post based its story was said to have been marked "This needs SERIOUS attention".



Stewart: B-list

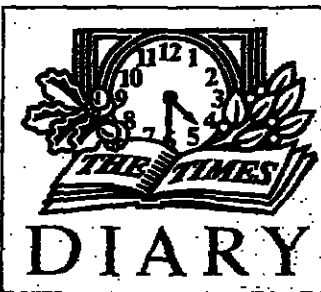
Suggestions continue to roll in for putative Olympic sports at which Britain might stand a chance of a medal. John Rigby, a vet from Walton on the Naze, suggests the great British pastime of riddly-winks, with a golden tiddle (or wink) going to the winner. "But surely the sport most deserving of Olympic recognition," he adds, "is charades."

Man talk

FEMALE penetration of the government offices' — by Jacqui Lait, the MP for Hastings and Rye — has not yet brought a change of habits among the otherwise all-male crew there. When she was appointed in last month's reshuffle, she became the first woman ever to serve in this robustly male bastion of Conservatism.

In trying to show his approval of Mrs Lait, Alastair Goodlad, the jovial chief whip, has been heard to struggle before resorting to traditionally the highest form of whips' praise: Lait, he nods, is most definitely "a good man".

Note to Trevor Nunn, soon to take over at the National Theatre: there is a lean, hungry look about the spear-carriers currently working at the National. Now it is clear



why the backstage grub is lousy. To paraphrase Napoleon, a theatrical troupe plays on its stomach: a petition is being kept at the stage door complaining about the quality of food. "Bland, tasteless and too expensive," is the tough verdict.

Irish joke

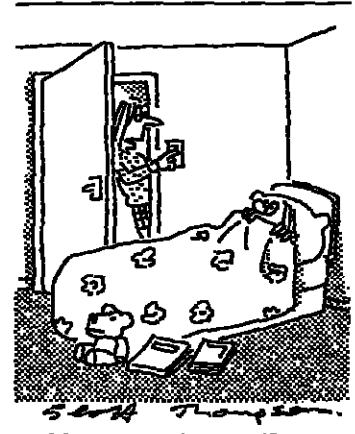
GALLOWES HUMOUR is firmly back in favour among the security forces in Northern Ireland. Amid the stand-off between nationalists and loyalist marchers in Londonderry last week, a poster went up in the RUC headquarters in East Belfast advertising "Drumcree Holidays '97". It promised special four to five-day breaks and new thrills including a ride on the Big Orange Dipper and "Inflatable dolls" — Paisley £7, Trimble £5. Paisley is

more expensive, explains the poster, because he is bigger and holds more hot air.

A vintage car rally — all newly burned-out cars — is also advertised in the spoof, alongside a plug for "The Sky at Night" — when the Portadown evening is lit up with spontaneous bonfires.

Pax humana

EVEN Jeremy Paxman, the putative cat-strangler of Shepherds Bush, is being ground down by the



Now go to sleep or Tony Blair will come and get you

vile London Underground drivers' strikes. A keen cyclist, Paxman was sighted on the day of the last strike gasping his way past the Victoria and Albert Museum, his face like that of a Tour de France cyclist straining for the top of Alpe d'Huez.

"I saw this figure approaching very slowly through Knightsbridge," says my witness. "He kept taking his feet off the pedals and didn't seem to be a man in control of his machine. He looked pained, fed-up and exhausted." Rather like one of his *Newsnight* victims?

Kidd stuff

TIRED of the endless talk about her waistline, Jodie Kidd has put her modelling career on ice and retreated to the countryside to mix dance records. Last year, Miss Kidd, a great-granddaughter of the newspaper baron Lord Beaverbrook, caused much chest-beating among fashion editors as her near-skeletal features swayed down the catwalks. "Have we brought models to this?" they wailed.

Bored with the gaunt taunts and the forkfuls of food being pushed her way, Miss Kidd retired to hideaways at her father's Caribbean estate and in the English countryside. She is learning all about



Kidd: model pupil

turntables and beats per minute from her boyfriend, Joel "Double" Chinn, 23, who is not the sort to flinch from a plate of chips. Their first release, a transcendence number, is expected by the end of this month.

P.H.S



TAX AND TRUST

Dole must use the convention to define himself

With the opening of the Republican National Convention in San Diego, a long wait finally ends for Bob Dole. Twenty years have passed since he was nominated as Vice-President. Sixteen years have gone since he first sought the presidency. It has been an unusually slow process in another sense. Five months have elapsed since Mr Dole became the *de facto* candidate. He has lived on a shoestring budget since then and found it difficult to engage the attention of voters. That goes at least a part of the way to explaining why he enters this convention so far behind in the polls.

This week represents Mr Dole's great opportunity. For a man who has been a prominent figure in Washington for two decades he still has a fuzzy image with the American public. His legislative achievement as Leader of the Senate is a list of deals made and compromises brokered to pass the bills of others. His character is a mixture of abrasiveness and modesty, both of which he exhibits to excess. Mr Dole needs to use this convention to define himself and stress three aspects of leadership that can differentiate him from President Clinton: purpose, consistency and dignity.

For most of this year, Mr Dole has not offered a stirring message. Like George Bush before him, he has given the impression of wanting the White House more for being there than for doing something. This is neither inspiring nor sufficient. The most striking presidents of the postwar era — John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan — were closely associated with vivid ideals. Bill Clinton is an able salesman of himself but his early vision has been clouded by strategic defeats and tactical manoeuvrings. In the past seven days there has been one major advance by Mr Dole. A campaign based on character has found a centrepiece in a bold economic plan, albeit of the kind that he has frequently fought against in the past. This new commitment to cut taxes has been reinforced by the imaginative selection

of Jack Kemp as running-mate. Having discovered his mission, Mr Dole will have to repeat it ceaselessly and resist all temptation to stray from it.

His second front should be consistency. The Clinton Administration, both at home and in foreign affairs, has often appeared chaotic and crisis-driven, with little common thread other than an excessive respect for opinion pollsters. It is a telling truth that the political recovery of Mr Clinton has come only since the smashing defeat of his own Democratic Party in 1994. This gave the President a less active role in domestic matters, allowing him the freedom to engage in the symbolic functions of his post. He has done this effectively. Mr Dole must use his experience to claim that he can produce a more professional all-round performance.

The final dimension is the dignity of the presidential office itself. It was perhaps inevitable that with the Cold War closing, the Commander-in-Chief would play a less prominent political role. It may even be in the better interest of American democracy. That shift has, however, been exaggerated by the Clinton tenure's multiple strands of scandal. Americans should be made to ask what the price of four more years would be. Mr Dole is entitled to assert that he has the qualities needed to restore the necessary decorum to the most important executive position in the world.

There is thus a powerful argument for the Dole-Kemp ticket. There is a rather better case than has been presented to the American electorate so far. A successful convention can do much to move this contest towards terrain favourable for Republicans. Mr Dole's acceptance speech can lay out the differences between himself and the President in policy and personal terms. The twin themes of tax and trust are compelling. Mr Dole has a moving story to tell and a fine career to highlight. He has to do that throughout the convention this week. He will not have a better chance.

TO PLAY THE MAN

The Conservatives' campaign is daring but not discreditable

The latest Tory attack on Labour reveals more about the Government than it does about the Opposition. In choosing to aim at Tony Blair personally the Conservatives have directed their fire at what has been, so far, Labour's greatest asset — its leader. The decision to attack Mr Blair, months before the expected election date, shows no small daring on the part of Tony Blair.

Some Tories will feel that Central Office should have kept its powder dry. Others will regret that it used a blunderbuss. But if party strategists can succeed, however crudely, in crystallising voters' concerns about Mr Blair now, the Tories' task will be easier as polling day approaches.

Some at Westminster will affect to be offended by a strategy so negative and so personal, arguing that the public will react with distaste. But negative campaigning need be no more than critical scrutiny of the pretensions to govern of the opponent. The Conservatives were attacked for the crudity of "tax bombshell" and "double whammy" advertisements during the last general election campaign: but the dinner-party deprecators, alone with their fears in the voting booth, voted Tory nonetheless.

The Tory attack is personal: but all parties have made their pitches to the public more presidential and their leaders fairer game. Labour has benefited greatly over the last two years from the enthusiasm engendered by Mr Blair's election. However, the last two months have seen a shift in public attitudes. Although Mr Blair's party is still well ahead in the polls his own ratings have slipped.

There is evidence, gathered for James Capel by Opinion Research Business, that

former Tories have new doubts about new Labour. The ruthlessness with which Mr Blair demoted Clare Short made some voters uneasy. The plaudits of nature of new Labour's rhetoric, although clumsily parodied by the Tories, had already begun to grate. The softening of Labour's policy positions, on issues from devolution to the social chapter, had created an impression of glib untrustworthiness.

The Conservatives clearly hope to give shape to these emerging doubts by defining Mr Blair as arrogant and unprincipled. They aspire to transform him from electoral asset to albatross. Tory strategists believe that Mr Blair's determination to win could be presented as a will to power at any price, much in the way that Neil Kinnock's strengths of passion and platform eloquence became seen as damaging "windbagery".

It is an audacious strategy, and it has clear dangers. Ruthlessness is what many voters want. The perception that dissent from the Left will be crushed is precisely the guarantee many disaffected Tories require. A willingness to marginalise extremists and tailor policy to Middle England's prejudices may only endear Mr Blair more to voters ill at ease with John Major's leadership style.

Ultimately, there is no easy way attractively to package the damaged goods that make up this Government. A willingness to tackle Mr Blair head-on at least demonstrates a renewed spirit. What will be required before that spirit can be translated into votes is a convincing analysis from the Conservatives of all the dangers that new Labour might pose and inspiring answers to the challenges a new millennium will bring.

FEATHERED ENEMIES

The RSPB should reconsider its position on predators

As the guns blaze out their annual paean to the Glorious Twelfth today, a dispute has broken out on the fringes of the grouse moor that is every bit as fiery and cacophonous. A five-year experiment conducted on a Scottish moor by the Duke of Buccleuch, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, has produced awkward findings for many conservationists. It found that a ban on the shooting of birds of prey allowed their numbers to increase that they not only decimated thriving colonies of game birds, but also led to catastrophic falls in other protected species.

The experiment at Langholm was the culmination of a movement among bird-lovers and conservationists to stop gamekeepers culling predators such as peregrine falcons, hen harriers and sparrow hawks. These beautiful birds, whose historic associations, elegance in flight and fierce magnificence have entranced generations of Britons, were in sharp decline. In recent years, however, a concerted attempt has been made to boost their numbers, protect their habitat and foster their breeding habits. The experiment, on 25,000 acres of moorland, was intended to show that, unmoored by man, wildlife will find a natural balance.

The results are a terrible disappointment for the predator-protectors. Rare heathland birds such as golden plover and curlew were hunted almost to extinction by their feathered enemies. Grouse numbers on what was once one of Scotland's finest

estates have fallen so steeply that they may never recover. The local economy is threatened. The Duke of Buccleuch — whose forbearance made the experiment possible — may now feel justified in calling for an immediate curb on the predators, and the RSPB will find powerful arguments opposing its long-held call for man to allow nature to take its course.

Several conclusions seem inevitable. The first is that in an island so crowded where natural conditions have for centuries been distorted by man, it is unrealistic now to adopt a hands-off approach to all species. Where predators are reintroduced, even the sea eagles of western Scotland, they may only be able to be brought back in limited numbers if they are not to upset the balance enjoyed by man.

The second conclusion is that anything that reduces game stock so drastically is bound to run into the opposition of landowners and field sportsmen. Thirdly, conservationists should recognise that birds of prey are probably more able to survive in today's environment than their prey. Peregrines have been found nesting in city centres, and hawks can forage for carrion on motorways. It is the weaker birds that deserve protection, including game birds such as the grey partridge whose numbers are falling despite the fine efforts of the Game Conservancy Trust. The RSPB should look at the Langholm findings and ask whether its absolutist stand is still tenable.

Deeper concerns in Tube dispute

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers

Sir, Contrary to the opinion outlined in your leading article on the Underground dispute ("Down the Tube", August 7) the dispute is not about the right of management to manage, far less, the organisation of holiday rosters.

The dispute arose because of the failure of management to deliver on an agreement it reached last year with the unions on reduced working time. Management's right to manage does not give them the right to tear up agreements negotiated in good faith.

It is ironic that you should point to the improvement in the performance of London Underground as a reason why "today's strikers should not prevail". Operating profits per member of staff rose from £7.45 in 1984-85 to £12.54 in 1995-96. Unit costs per train mile fell by 7 per cent over the same period while overall productivity rose by 50 per cent. These improvements were achieved by Underground workers, including the drivers you now seek to pillory.

Yet there is a price to pay for this. Your leading article talks about management's freedom to initiate and innovate. These initiatives include asking drivers to ignore safety guidelines to meet timetable targets and forcing sick staff back to work under the pain of discipline.

There is now a real and growing problem with stress among Underground workers. This is acknowledged by the company. Last year, as part of a programme to tackle the problem, the unions called for a reduction in working time to be achieved over a period of years and we agreed a weekly reduction of one hour in 1996 to "benefit train staff".

The company reneged on the deal. Yet at the same time, the executive directors felt able to justify paying themselves massive bonuses because of the improvements made by staff. The unions do not object to these payments in principle, but simply ask for equality of treatment.

After a week spent at Acas where the only initiatives came from the unions — including an unprecedented offer to accept wage increases below the rate of inflation for three years to help pay for reduced working time — we are drawn to the conclusion that London Underground is happy to put passengers through another month of misery. Whether this was for political or other reasons remains unclear to me.

It is a peculiarly one-eyed view to suggest that management alone are responsible for improvements in performance. We can still negotiate our way out of the difficulty but London Underground Limited has to show a willingness to do so — something that has been absent until now.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES KNAPP,
General Secretary,
National Union of Rail,
Maritime and Transport Workers,
Unity House, Euston Road, NW1.
August 7.

Postal strike

From Mr Robin Rhoderick-Jones

Sir, Today I have no post. Tomorrow, no doubt, I shall have the usual small pile of personal letters, ominous brown bills and marketing trash in roughly equal quantities delivered — despite the fact that I live miles from anywhere — by the ever-cheerful Roger in his little red van at about 6.30am. Under normal circumstances this happens six days a week: some addresses have two deliveries a day.

This is an admirable service and one that, in my experience, is surpassed by no other postal authority in the world: but it is expensive. Do we really need a delivery every day; does anyone actually depend on a second delivery?

The postal strike, if it does nothing else, seems to me to point up the absurdity of a luxury that we could well do without.

Why not move to a system of no deliveries and minimal collection on Saturdays as well as Sundays? This would save a great deal of money and also remove at least some of the postal workers' grievances. Urgent communications between businesses could still be transacted by e-mail, fax or the telephone. The rest could surely wait.

Yours by fax,
ROBIN RHODERICK-JONES,
Middle St Andrew's Wood,
Dulford, Cullompton, Devon.
August 6.

Wildlife, WI

From Mr Thomas Cave

Sir, The 50 game licence I purchased yesterday from the post office in Alcester Street, WI, has a serial number three higher than that I bought from there almost exactly a year ago.

Surely more than two other denizens of the St James's/Piccadilly areas have shot game in the last 12 months?

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS CAVE,
Berry Bros and Rudd,
3 St James's Street, SW1.
August 8.

Sport letters, page 34

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Serious issues and 'tabloid' TV

From Mrs Pauline Simpson

Sir, We were interested to read your reports (August 6 and 7) of Dr Stamford's unhappy experiences on Esther Rantzen's BBC programme on ME (letters, August 10). A Scope director recently had a similar impression of being "thrown to the lions" when he was filmed for a future Rantzen Report, this one on the use of advocates for vulnerable people.

We were asked to make part because of the widely reported mistreatment by a care worker of children at one of our schools and of the ensuing inquiry. You do not, nor should you expect, to get an easy interview on a subject like that. However, we agreed to take part in the programme, partly because we feel we have a duty to explain when things go wrong, and partly because we feel that the issue of advocates and protection of vulnerable people is important.

Unfortunately, as with the ME programme, our director's attempts at serious debate were lost in the Punch and Judy show atmosphere in the studio, with an audience apparently geared up to boo and hiss at the badly. It is not yet clear whether the "goudies" fared much better. People who took part in the programme were obviously distressed: their very real emotions, it seemed, were to be dished up for the delectation of the audience.

Of course, Scope (and, I'm sure, Dr Stamford, too) can survive a bit of heckling, but is this really any way to deal with serious issues? This is zoo TV, tabloid TV at its worst, and the critics are right to condemn it.

Yours faithfully,
PAULINE SIMPSON
(Director of Marketing),
Scope (formerly The Spastics Society),
12 Park Crescent, W1.
August 7.

Slipping of Civil Service standards

From Dr J. H. Bridgman

Sir, The letter from Lord Taylor of Gryfe (August 6) about the privatisation of the Recruitment and Assessment Service raises an issue that ought to be more widely aired.

For a century and a half Britain has had a Civil Service staffed by people recruited on merit through a system of competitive examination and interviews by boards containing independent chairmen and members. As a result of this, the Civil Service, whatever its other weaknesses, has been remarkably free of nepotism, cronyism and political favouritism; and the frequent financial scandals have been rare enough to be shocking.

We take this for granted until we encounter the public services of other countries.

The last few years have seen a progressive dismantling of this system.

Dogma and reality

From Mr David Johnson

Sir, "Always a loyal friend of the Soviet Union" (obituary of Aruna Asaf Ali, August 8). How long will it be before these words constitute the accepted definition of loyalty to dogma in denial of reality?

Your obituarist unwittingly raises the wider issue of the UK's responsibility for India's postwar performance than has perhaps been admitted so far. The founders of independent India imbued their socialist ideals at the feet of the ruling intellectual elite of the LSE, notably the Webbs.

We British, pragmatists that we are, did not fall for such an easy Utopia

Recruitment has been largely delegated to departments themselves, including recruitment of the mid-ranking grade of Executive Officer, which has been the starting point of many senior careers. This took so much business away that the boards of independent people were disbanded.

The Civil Service Commission was reduced to a very small unit concerned with the generalities of "good practice" and recruiting was hived off to an agency with the commercial outlook that this implies.

Privatisation of the agency is the inevitable next step. Who now will see that we get the civil servants we think we deserve?

Yours faithfully,
JOAN BRIDGMAN,
The Lodge, Church Hill,
High Littleton, Somerset.
August 8.

and soon abandoned it. The Indians, unfortunately, believed it and attempted to implement it. The result is the unbelievably bureaucratic controlled economy which is only now beginning to unravel. That such an approach is not genetically predetermined is evidenced by the economic success of emigré Indians the world over.

It must be an awful legacy to have the world realise that one's life was dedicated to a system that has been totally discredited.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JOHNSON,
10 Thornton Road,
Wimbledon Village, SW19.
August 8.

Noisy neighbours

From Mr Jason Stacey

Sir, Rachel Kelly's article, "Now noisy neighbours may face the music" (Homes, July 31), may have given readers the impression that people are now liable for on-the-spot fines of £100 for noise made between 11pm and 7am that is above the legally allowed 35 decibels. This is not the case.

Whilst the Noise Bill, introduced by Harry Greenway, MP, received its Royal Assent just before Parliament rose for the summer recess, the Act won't be enacted until probably April 1, 1997, to allow technical considerations to be agreed and local authorities time to adopt the measures in full.

Additionally, the article implies that it is up to the individual contacting the environmental health departments of local authorities to "prove" that the noise is a statutory nuisance. In fact individuals will not have to do this.

After receiving a complaint, local environmental health officers will visit the properties concerned and measure the noise being made with a standardised noise-measuring unit. It is this device that will prove whether the noise level is above the 35-decibel limit.

Yours etc,
JASON STACEY,
68 Bessborough Road,
Harrow, Middlesex.
August 1.

Spread of BSE

From Mr David C. Taylor

Sir, The Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer is wrong to state that BSE cannot be transmitted through milk "because the calves of dairy cows do not drink their mothers' milk" (report, August 2). Calves do drink their mothers' milk, at least for the first day or so, when they receive the protein-rich (prion-protein-rich) colostrum — first milk — which is important for their survival and never sold as milk to the public.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. TAYLOR,
International Zoo Veterinary Group,
Keighley Business Centre,
South Street,
Keighley, West Yorkshire.
August 2.

From Professor S. H. U. Bowie, FRS
Sir, Michael Dynes' "EU 'mad cow' bill could exceed £1 billion" (July 31) rightly refers to the need to restore confidence in Europe's beef and lamb markets. Attempts to do so should be based on the best possible scientific evidence and on accurate reporting by

Maddened by bells

From Mr Richard Berkley-Matthews

Sir, Thanks in part to a donation from my cousin, the late Miss Eileen Heaven, the church bells of St Helena's, Lundy, have been rehung. On a recent visit to the island I was told by the acting agent that, such is the disruption caused to Lundy's usual peace and tranquillity, the new frequent parties of visiting bell-ringers have been restricted to four hours ringing a day, with no ringing on Fridays (letters, August 5, 7).

Even life in the Kingdom of Heaven (as the island was known during the ownership of the Heaven family) can be disturbed by the sound of church bells.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BERKLEY-MATTHEWS,
35 York Mansions,
Prince of Wales Drive, SW11.
August 7.

Trade descriptions

From Miss Joanna A. Migdal

Sir, Without a shadow of doubt, my trade puts all others in the shade (letters, July 22, 26; August 3, 10).

Yours faithfully,
J. A. MIGDAL (Sundial maker),
Lethbridge,
Polecat Valley, Hindhead, Surrey.

the media. For example, "possible" should not be changed to "probable", as has happened in the past.

There would not seem to be any evidence that under normal feeding conditions scrapie can be passed to cattle or other ruminants. It is even less likely that scrapie or BSE can cross the species boundary to humans. However, what is certain is that the strictest possible measures should be taken to prevent mammalian meat or bone meal being fed to any herbivore.

It is well known that groups of people in this country and abroad consider that the brain and spinal cord of sheep are delicacies. It should be relatively easy to obtain evidence as to whether or not they suffer more from CJD than others who have never eaten such products.

Yours faithfully,
S. H. U. BOWIE,
Tanyard Farm,
Clapton, Crewkerne, Somerset.
August 1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Measuring the merits of metric

From Mr R. C. Amsden

Sir, Mr V. T. Linacre, Chairman of the British Weights and Measures Association (letter, August 5), may find metric units inelegant, but surely they are not an anachronism as are the imperial units.

He is quite right to deplore our occasional mixing of the two systems. However, now that the greater part of our population is fortunate enough to have been educated to use the *Système International* it is surely incumbent on you to use the modern metric units to the exclusion of units based on barleys and body measurements.

If any of your readers complain that they do not understand the metric units, but claim to comprehend the imperial, then try challenging them to state the area of one chain by one furlong without looking it up. The hectare is 100 metres by 100 metres or one hundredth of a square kilometre.

The imperial system was partly based on the needs of agriculture. A furlong is the length of furrow which a horse can plough without a rest and a chain's width of such furrows is the area which the animal can work in one day. Very practical; however, the hectare is much better suited to the use of tractors.

Incidentally the Sudanese area unit, the *faddan*, is 1,038 acres.

Yours sincerely,
RON AMSDEN,
4 Shepherd's Hall,
Market Lane, Linton, Cambridge.
August 6.

From Mrs Sheila Lyddon

Sir, Mr Linacre reproaches you for confusing readers with an odd assortment of metric and imperial measures, but who is confused? Not me.

I went metric when my children were at school, so I had no difficulty on Saturday at the garden centre in selecting a 14in wire hanging basket and (same brand) a 35cm liner.

My metric-educated children, now adult, use whichever measure is appropriate, plus 28g of common sense. They generally prefer imperial.

Yours faithfully,
S. LYDDON,
6a Station Parade, Richmond, Surrey.
August 5.

From Mr R. J. Turner

Sir, V. T. Linacre suggests that you should use only imperial units. I would like to suggest that you use only SI units and exclude all others.

I have a grandson, now in his second year at university, who since he started at primary school has been taught nothing but metric units. He does not understand and is confused by imperial units. No wonder employers are critical of the standards of job-seekers.

We should have followed the example of the Australians and changed to the metric system in one fell swoop: even the elderly there quickly picked it up. My aged aunts happily think and talk in kilometres and grams.

V. T. Linacre reminds me of my dear old mother, who at the time of decimalisation of the currency said: "Why did they have to do it now? Why couldn't they wait until we old folks had died off?"

Yours faithfully,
R. TURNER,
92 Brook Lane,
Warrash, Southampton.
August 5.

A move for Sir Walter?

From Dr Brian Porter

Sir, The little, life-size statue of Sir Walter Raleigh on the Ministry of Defence green in Whitehall looks so incongruous among the much larger statues of the surrounding Second World War generals that it should surely be moved to a more suitable site.

No better one could be found than on the strip of lawn fronting the National Gallery, already graced by the life-size statues of George Washington and James II.

Not only is Trafalgar Square the right location for one of our maritime celebrities, but how fitting, if he were placed a little distance to the left of Washington, that Virginia's founder (and the fact should be added to the plinth) should stand alongside Virginia's greatest son.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN PORTER,
Rutherford College,
University Kent at Canterbury,
Canterbury, Kent.
August 9.

A little learning

From Mr Peter Burian

Sir, Whilst your columns are full of the headline achievements of American academia with the Martian discoveries and "intelligent" life speculations, you may be forgiven for overlooking our own Coventry University's contribution to revealing the mysteries of the Universe.

I have been invited to take part in a PhD study there into domestic work in London, encompassing cleaners, au pairs and mothers' helps.

The qualification "PhD Char" should open up undreamed-of opportunities.

Yours etc,
PETER BURIAN,
Hillview, Vale of Health, NW3.
August 8.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SIR NEVILL MOTT

Sir Nevill Mott, CH, FRS, winner of the 1977 Nobel Prize for Physics and Cavendish Professor of Physics, Cambridge University, 1954-71, died on August 8 aged 90. He was born on September 30, 1905.

One of the most distinguished theoretical physicists of this century, Nevill Mott won his Nobel Prize, which he shared with the Americans Philip Anderson and John van Beck, not for that "one startling discovery" for which the Nobel Prize is often associated in the public mind. His field of research was not one of the more outwardly glamorous ones, such as astronomy or particle physics. Yet his specialisation — solid state physics — was to find itself at the heart of the contemporary electronics revolution, and was to affect ordinary lives in a manner which the discovery of a new heavenly body, or even the detonation of a nuclear weapon, did not.

His work, and that of Anderson and van Beck, showed that certain cheap, glassy semiconductor materials had special electrical characteristics. He demonstrated that these could be used to improve the performance of circuits in computers, to increase enormously the memory of such systems, and to produce more efficient photovoltaic cells to convert solar energy into electricity. Such discoveries paved the way for a variety of now indispensable tools for the individual, ranging from the wafer-thin, battery-less pocket calculator to the PC and the desktop publisher.

Yet when in the 1960s Mott started his work on amorphous materials like glass, which lack the orderly structure of crystalline substances such as metals and are therefore more difficult to understand, many of his contemporaries looked askance at his efforts. It was only when he produced a theory to show that such amorphous materials could function as semiconductors that the barriers of scepticism began breaking down.

In the event he was able to demonstrate that because glassy substances were easier to prepare, and did not need to be anything like as pure as the crystalline materials used in most electronic systems to that date, their use could usher in the age of the truly cheap electronic device. Although unspectacular when described in purely scientific terms, these discoveries quite simply ended the notion of the computer as the preserve of aerospace and defence agencies, big industries and scientific research institutes, and added it to the list of household utensils.

Surprisingly for one who had been a shy and retiring boy, Mott was, in addition to this immense burden of research work, to become in his day one of the most influential figures at Cambridge University through his 17-year tenure

of the Cavendish professorship and his Mastership of Gonville and Caius College from 1959 to 1966. As — in addition to these two influential posts — an active member of the university's General Board and of the Council of the Senate, he played a leading part in formulating university policy, especially where science was concerned. Indeed, in matters of science education — particularly proposed changes in school syllabuses which cropped up from time to time — his voice, whether as a university spokesman or as chairman of the Royal Society committee on education which he chaired in the 1960s, was listened to far outside Cambridge.

Administrative activities had not, at first, come easily to him. His first love, and the centre of his being, was his research (and he had all the endearing hallmarks of the "absent-minded professor"). But through his own action in seizing opportunities and his self-discipline in adapting himself to his challenge, he gained the necessary assurance as time progressed.

Nevill Francis Mott was the son of C. F. Mott, a former Director of Education for Liverpool, and his talented wife Lilian. His mother and father had been research students together under J. J. Thomson at the Cavendish Laboratory, where their photographs may be seen displayed in the "Research Group" for 1912, when his mother was still "Miss Reynolds". Nevill was at school at Clifton College and went from there to St John's College, Cambridge, with an open scholarship.

He was classed Wrangler with Distinction in Part II of the Mathematical Tripos in 1926, and after three years' research in applied mathematics he was appointed to a lectureship at Manchester University in 1929. He returned to Cambridge as a Fellow and lecturer of Caius College in 1930 and in 1933 went to Bristol as Melville Wills Professor in Theoretical Physics. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1936 at the young age of 31. In 1948 he became Henry Overton Wills Professor of Physics and Director of the Henry Herbert Wills Physical Laboratory at Bristol.

In 1954 he returned to Cambridge to the Cavendish Chair of Experimental Physics, and in 1959 he was elected in addition to the Mastership of Caius College. In the meantime his mathematical genius had been turned to good account in the early years of the nuclear programme at the UK Atomic Energy Establishment at Harwell. By this stage his absent-mindedness had become legendary. It was said that when colleagues returned him to Didcot station from Harwell after a meeting there in 1954, he mistakenly took the train to Bristol, forgetting that he had just taken up the chair at Cambridge.

Mott's research career started at a time when the ideas of wave-mechanics were



being put on a firm basis, and he quickly established a reputation by his application of the new ideas to collisions of atomic particles. In an important paper he showed how the Rutherford law of alpha particle scattering could be deduced from wave-mechanical principles, and he extended it to include the effects of symmetry in scattering phenomena. But when he went to Bristol as a professor at the age of 27 he abandoned the subject of collisions for that of metals and alloys, and within a few years he had an international reputation in that field also. Later he turned to consider semiconductors and insulators, and to problems

concerned with the formation of a latent image in a photographic emulsion. During Mott's 21 years at Bristol his group occupied a position of particular eminence in theoretical physics.

During the war he first worked on problems concerned with the propagation of radio waves. Later, as Superintendent of Theoretical Research in Armaments, he made outstanding contributions to the theory of the explosive fragmentation of shell and bomb cases.

Although Mott's researches were of a purely mathematical nature, he showed particular aptitude for discussing them in physical terms, and in relation to practical

experiments. It was largely this facility which made him so successful as research director of the H. H. Wills laboratory at Bristol, where he showed unexpected ability for directing the experimental work in detail. His ability to explain mathematics in physical terms was responsible for the immediate success of his book *An Outline of Wave Mechanics* (1930) and its successor *Elements of Wave Mechanics* (1952), each of which, in its own time, had a profound influence on the teaching of wave mechanics in English universities.

Other books, such as *The Theory of Atomic Collisions* (with H. S. W. Massey, 1933) and *The Theory of the Properties of Metals and Alloys* (with H. Jones, 1936), were of equal importance for more advanced students. *Metal-Insulator Transitions* (1970, 2nd ed. 1990) crowned a long period of concern with a central problem in the physics of solids which is universally known as the Mott Transition.

By the time Mott was appointed Cavendish Professor at Cambridge his interests had widened to include administration, and from the first he showed himself courageous in making far-reaching decisions and executing them with speed and ruthlessness. There was naturally at that time in the Cavendish Laboratory, where Rutherford had worked, a strong tradition of nuclear physics. Mott found that a large and costly "linear accelerator" was under construction. He saw at once the critical problems for the university which a large machine of this kind would present; although he was not due to go into residence at Cambridge until a year had elapsed, he lost little time in closing the project down.

This action determined, to a considerable extent, the future trend of the work at the Cavendish. It meant that nuclear physics could not much longer remain the central interest, and that the "Rutherford tradition" must soon cease.

Mott was equally clear in his ideas on teaching. On arriving at Cambridge he found that most physicists had to take the Natural Sciences Tripos under involved and complicated regulations, framed so that all the sciences were included. He at once decided to alter its structure to make it more suitable for specialist physicists (and chemists), and such was his energy and persuasiveness that he achieved his aim in less than three years.

Research in solid state physics became a major activity of the laboratory and included the development of electron microscopy and its use in the investigation of the properties of metals. He also encouraged the expansion of work in radio astronomy.

At the same time, preparations for the rebuilding of the Cavendish Laboratory on a site in west Cambridge — a first

priority of the Deer report on the long-term needs of scientific departments — absorbed his time and effort increasingly from the mid-1960s, at a difficult period when retrenchment rather than expansion was the national policy.

Mott's Mastership of Caius was notable for his insistence on the importance of bringing the college into accord with the changing external conditions, especially through its admissions policy, and also of taking its full share of any university affairs. He supported the college's liberal use of its funds for purposes such as the election of considerable numbers of able young research fellows and, in particular, for its share in the founding of the new Darwin College. But he resigned the Mastership in 1966, feeling that continued conflict of opinion about many issues with a majority of the fellows made the position a frustrating one. In particular, his forward-looking proposal for a professionally trained bursar had been turned down by them.

After his retirement from the Cavendish chair, Mott returned to research with a vigour that would have been impressive in a much younger man. He worked not only with the research groups in the Cavendish Laboratory but with workers in industrial research laboratories in the UK and in France, and, as a senior research fellow, 1971-73, with the solid state physicists at Imperial College, London.

The work which was to win him the Nobel Prize in 1977 had in fact been begun, in conjunction with Anderson, at Cambridge in the 1960s. The two men's research sparked off a number of similar experiments; at Dundee, in Marburg, Germany, where the work was financed by Volkswagen; and in a number of places in the US, notably at Bell Telephone. His Nobel Prize, awarded at the relatively late age (for a mathematician) of 72, was a summation of these years of research which had to be quarried out of the time he had been compelled to devote to administration.

Outside Cambridge Mott held important offices in physics, which ranged from his presidency of the International Union of Physics through his membership of the Crowther committee on education to his work as adviser on the planning of higher education in African countries, in Israel and in Greece, to the part he played in the "Pugwash" conference on the application of science for peaceful ends.

He was knighted in 1962, and he received well over a score of honorary degrees from institutions in Britain, Europe, Israel and America. His appointment as a Companion of Honour last year was a somewhat belated, but richly merited, acknowledgement of his great achievements.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, and by one of their two daughters.

RAFAEL KUBELIK

Rafael Kubelik, Czech-born, Swiss-naturalised conductor and composer, died yesterday in Lucerne aged 82. He was born on June 29, 1914.

NOT a man who was prepared to compromise, especially on matters such as rehearsal time, Rafael Kubelik was a musician from whom controversy was never very far. In his earlier days, whether during his spell with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, 1950-53, or at Covent Garden where he was artistic director, 1955-58, he was not a man to whom the give and take which generally has to be part of operatic life came easily. Nor, to his credit, was he prepared to conduct in countries whose autocratic regimes he found repugnant. He had, after all, had to leave Czechoslovakia after the Communist takeover in 1948.

But his later experiences were happier ones. From 1961 he had a fruitful association with Munich as chief conductor of Bayerischer Rundfunk and he stayed there until ill-health — acute arthritis — forced him to give up conducting in 1979. He broke off a performance of Mahler's Ninth Symphony in Munich because he could no longer stand the pain and he seldom appeared before an orchestra thereafter.

His 75th birthday in 1989 was, though, celebrated with much acclaim in Bavaria, including performances of

several of his own works. His period in Munich had been notable for the recording of all Mahler's symphonies and for recordings of works by Janacek and Schoenberg.

Rafael Jeronym Kubelik was born on his father's estate near Kolín to the east of Prague. His family was musical, his father being the legendary Czech violinist Jan Kubelik, whom the young Rafael was later to accompany on the piano. His mother was a Hungarian countess of broad culture.

Kubelik studied at the Prague Conservatoire and demonstrated just how versatile he was by conducting, playing the violin and offering one of his own compositions for the final examination. In 1934 he conducted the Czech Philharmonic for the first time, five months before his 20th birthday. Appointed conductor of the orchestra in 1936, he took it on tours throughout Czechoslovakia and abroad, in particular to Britain.

Before the war he also conducted at the Brno Opera, which was famous for its championship of Janacek, and from 1942 to 1948 he was music director of the Czech Philharmonic. After the war he helped to found the Prague Spring Festival, but he left the country after the Communist takeover in 1948.

Some of his first engagements in the West were provided by the BBC, for whom Kubelik conducted a number of operas. He also conducted

Don Giovanni for the Glyndebourne Opera during its appearance at the Edinburgh Festival in 1948.

However, his reputation was established mainly in the concert hall and this led to his appointment as principal conductor of the Chicago Symphony in 1950. The Chicago years were stormy. Kubelik insisted both on lengthy rehearsal periods and in scheduling a large number of contemporary works. He was criticised for a narrow repertoire, although he did premiere Roy Harris's Symphony No. 7 in 1952 and Bloch's *Suite Hébraïque* in 1953. But he made enemies in the city and resigned after three years.

The choice of Kubelik as artistic director of Covent Garden came as a total surprise to musical London. He had conducted a highly successful *Kolya Kabanova* at Sadler's Wells but otherwise was scarcely known as an opera conductor in Britain. Before taking over the job he made his debut at the house with a new production of *The Bartered Bride*, an obvious gesture of loyalty to his native land. The soprano lead of *Majnka* was sung by Elsie Morison, whom he was later to marry.

Kubelik at once announced a policy at Covent Garden of opera in English, sung whenever possible by a resident company which he was trying to build up. It was a controversial move, made the more so by the fact that some of his

selected performers were not of a standard to have made it in an international house. The experiment might have had its attractions elsewhere, but Covent Garden was hardly the place for it.

There were public rows, one with Tito Gobbi whom Kubelik fired for turning up late for rehearsals. There was another, in print, with Beecham, who thoroughly disapproved of the Kubelik approach. The compensations were Kubelik's own performances — *Otello*, *The Trojans* and *Jenůfa*. But these were not great years at Covent Garden and when Kubelik left in 1958 his policy of English-language performance was revoked.

Thereafter he conducted a number of world orchestras, among them the Vienna Philharmonic and the Israel Philharmonic, maintaining his momentum on the international scene. Soon he was dividing much of his life between Munich and Lucerne. Made chief conductor of Bayerischer Rundfunk in 1961, he led the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra on many tours abroad until his retirement in 1979. It was the natural place to express his lifelong feeling for Mahler and, to a lesser extent, Bruckner.

Later he had a home in Lucerne — he had taken out Swiss citizenship in 1967 — and was artistic adviser to the festival there, which in 1988 gave the premiere of one of his last compositions, *Invocation*.

In London he was heard regularly with the LSO. In 1973 there was a brief flirtation with the Met in New York before James Levine took over. But by then Kubelik had probably realised that the international opera circuit was not for him.

He made a number of records, mainly with the Bavarian Radio, which included two Weber operas (*Oberon* and *Freischütz*) as well as his beloved Mahler. He had no outward resentment of the disease which brought an end to his career at an age when many conductors feel there is a good decade to go and told one interviewer that "pain can act as a positive spiritual force".

To prove it he went on composing. His works include, notably, the operas *Veronika*, first performed in Brno in 1947, and *Cornelia Faroldi* (based on the life of Titian) and premiered in Augsburg in 1972. There were also two symphonies, one orchestral, the other choral; two concertos, one for violin, one for cello; and three requiems.

Finally, in 1990, after 42 years in exile he returned to Prague and conducted the Czech Philharmonic in a memorable concert on the city's Old Town Square.

His first wife, the violinist Lala Bertlova, by whom he had one son, died in 1961. He married the soprano Elsie Morison two years later; she survives him.



Church news

Latest appointments include: The Rev Alison Bever, Assistant Curate, Christ Church and St Mark's, Watford (St Albans), to be Vicar, St Catherine of Siena, Tilehurst (Oxford). The Rev David Burrell, Priest-in-charge, Haughey with Wetherden and Stanbury, to be Priest-in-charge, Culford, West Stow and Wordwell, Fletton with Hengrave and Luffield and the Farnhams and Timworth (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich). The Rev Stuart Carter, Assistant Curate, St Luke, Birmingham, to be Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Quinton (Birmingham). The Rev Dr Joseph Cassidy, formerly senior lecturer in ethics and theology, to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Salisbury St Martin and Laverstock (Salisbury). The Rev Christopher Chapman, Priest-in-charge, Loddon, Sissland with Hales and Heckingham, and Edmond, Loddon (Norwich).

to be also an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral. The Rev Janet Collins, Team Vicar, Winey Team Ministry, to be Staff Tutor, St Alban and Oxford Ministry Course (Oxford). The Rev Louise Cooper, Curate, Dovercourt (Liverpool), to be Assistant Chaplain in HM Young Offenders Centre, Glen Parva (Leicester). The Rev Antonia Creney, formerly Honorary Curate, Bedminster Team Ministry, to be Curate, Bedminster Team Ministry (Bristol). The Rev Very Rev Hon Hugh Dickinson, Dean of Salisbury Cathedral (Salisbury), recently retired, now Dean Emeritus. The Rev Richard Goodhand, Priest-in-charge, Clarksburg with Hayton (Southwell), now Assistant Chaplain (part-time) at HM Prison, Ramby. The Rev Stephen Griffiths, Assistant Curate, Glascoate and

Stonylough (Lichfield), to be Priest-in-charge, St Paul, Stratford, and Area Youth Officer (Chelmsford). The Rev Cynthia Hudson, Curate, demery of Twyveln (Bangor, Church in Wales), to be Curate, St Mary, Knighton (Leicester). The Rev Jonathan Herbert, Team Vicar, Blakenhall Heath Team Ministry (Lichfield), to be Community Minister, Pilson Community (Salisbury). The Rev Eric Heselwood, Vicar, St Mark, Biggin Hill, to be Vicar, All Saints, Orpington (Rochester). The Rev Sebastian Jones, Vicar, South Ascot, All Souls, to be also Rural Dean of Bracknell (Oxford). The Rev Trevor Jones, Assistant Curate, Widford (Chelmsford), to be Vicar, St Peter and St Mary, Stowmarket (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich). The Rev Roger Matthews, Team Vicar, Chigwell and Chigwell Road Team Ministry, to be Diocesan Mission Officer (Chelmsford).

Canon Roy Matthews, permission to officiate, Diocese York, to be Priest-in-charge, Selby Abbey, during the interregnum, same diocese. The Rev Terence Nottage, Rector, North Sutton Team Ministry, to be Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Adviser in Vocations (Exeter). The Rev Angus Parker, Associate Minister, Attenborough (Southwell), to be Vicar, St Pancras, Penryn, Plymouth (Exeter). The Rev John Potter, Vicar, Swindon New Town Team Ministry (Bristol), to be Vicar, Milber, Newton Abbot (Exeter). The Rev Anthony Shaw, Head Coordinator of Key Stage One in a London School and on the staff of St Mark's Church, Regents Park (London), to be Priest-in-charge, Windhurst, All Saints Church and Langford, St Bartholomew with Holme, St Giles, and Diocesan Inspector of Church Schools (Southwell).

A TALE

Every man experienced in love must have felt the pleasure of being deceived, and perhaps he submits with most cheerfulness to the arts of the other sex, acts with more wisdom than the cunning lover, who is for ever investigating facts and circumstances. This was the conduct of a certain Turkish merchant, of whom we are going to give an anecdote.

This merchant went upon a trading voyage which consumed two years, and during his absence his wife, who was young and handsome, feeling for his absence consented to the solicitations of an ardent lover to fill his place.

The consequence was that the merchant's wife became a mother, without making a father of her betrothed spouse. The merchant returning suddenly, surprised his wife in the very act of nursing her spurious bantling — and assuming a complaisant air, inquired with great humility to what happy accident he owed the increase in his family.

ON THIS DAY

August 12, 1786

The Times, in its second year, and still called *The Universal Register*, was dependent on more than hard news to fill its columns.

The lady answered — "Mahomet must be the father, for one day as I lay reclined in the garden upon a bench, a cloud suddenly burst over me — turning my eyes to Heaven, I perceived there was a fall of snow — ejaculating a prayer at the instant, a flock of snow fell into my mouth, and within ten months I was delivered of this fair babe".

"I thank the Holy Prophet," said the merchant, "I wished for an heir and he has sent me one — I am satisfied, and we must take care of the offspring of the father of the faithful". The merchant was a perfect master of dissimulation; he also loved peace and never upbraided his wife, or showed the least want of affection to the son of the Holy Prophet.

The son grew up, and when 15 the merchant proposed to carry him on a journey — He carried him to Alexandria and there sold him to a merchant who traded to the East Indies. On his return — his wife was distracted at the loss of her son. "Calm your passions," said he, "The Prophet is only to blame — the boy and I on a sultry day travelled upon a lofty mountain, when on a sudden your son began to dissolve, and melted before my eyes — I would have attempted to assist him; but recollecting you had told me he was made of snow, I considered it would have been labour in vain".

A great part of Cheapside, a large proportion of Wapping, a good slice of Rotherhithe, and half Whitechapel have emptied themselves in Margate.

